fortean times

the journal of strange phenomena

£2.50

TALK RADIO

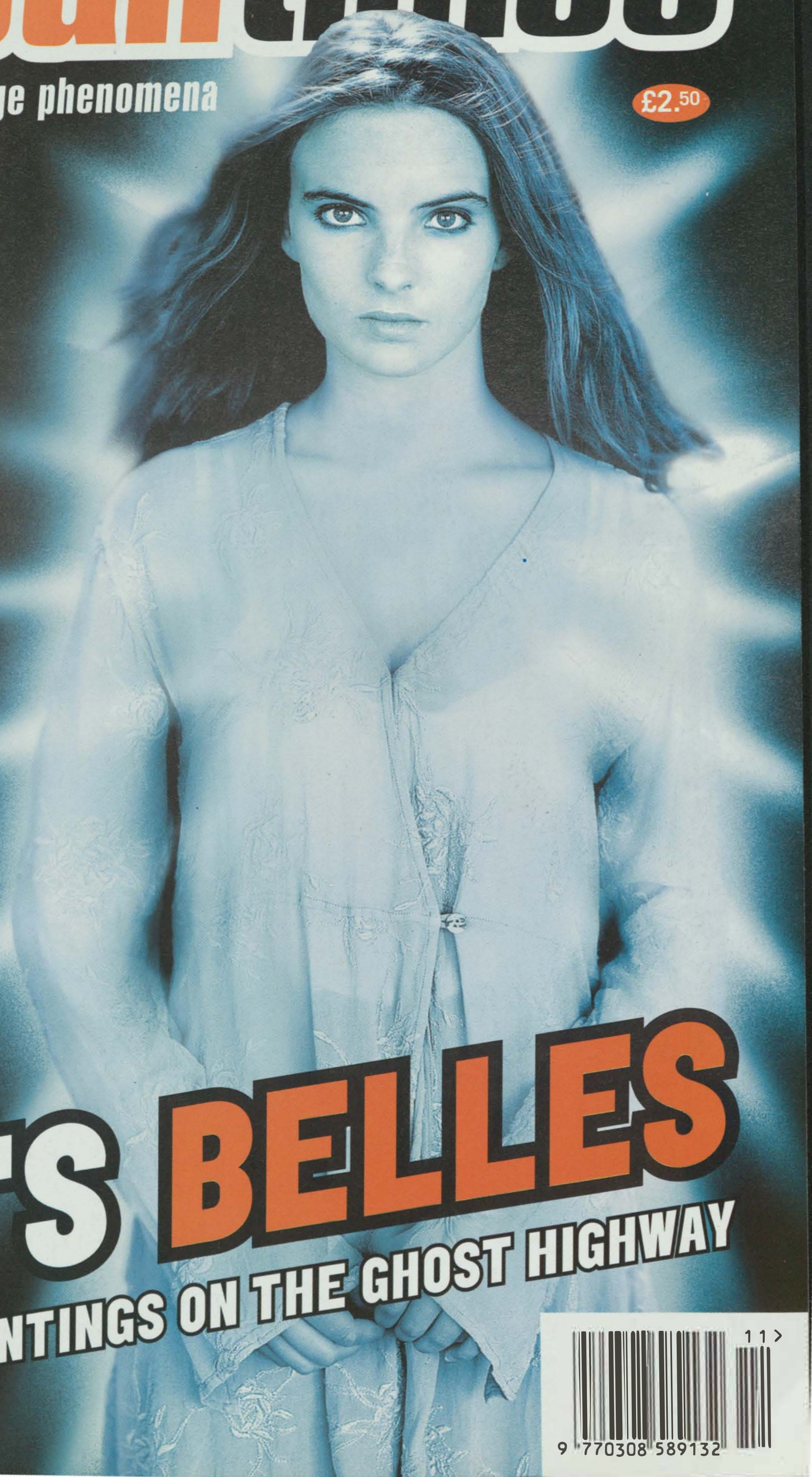
TUNE IN TO THE VOICES OF THE DEAD

STALKER

THE BEST CROP CIRCLES.... EVER

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS

PARANORMAL COURTROOM DRAMAS



HELL'S BELLES

HIT AND RUN HAUNTINGS ON THE GHOST HIGHWAY

11 >

9 770308 589132

THERE'S A NEW FACE OF EVIL IN THE UNIVERSE.
[AND YOU THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET ANY UGLIER.]
STAR WARS
SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE
REQUIRES 3D ACCELERATOR
LUCAS Arts

YOU'RE DASH RENDAR - QUICK ON THE TRIGGER OF A BLASTER.

IT'S YOU AND YOUR TINY SNOW SPEEDER VERSUS A GIANT, WALKING A.T.A.T.

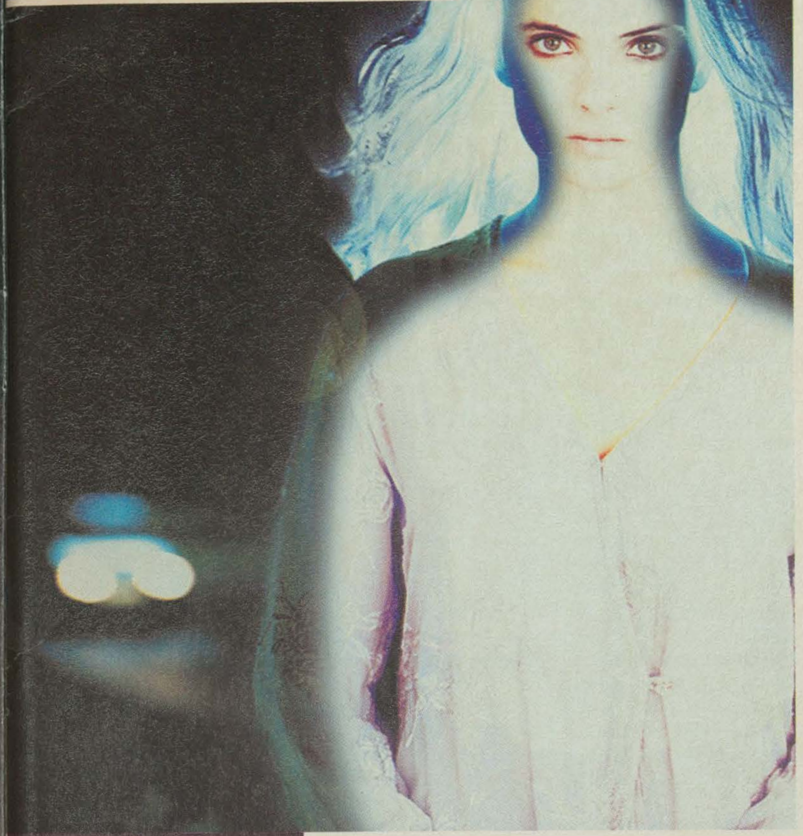
SPEEDER BIKE MODE - FAST-PACED ACTION WITH A KICK START.

Enter Prince Xizor - the newest villain of the Dark Side. In **Shadows of the Empire**, you'll encounter him along with a host of new *Star Wars* characters, vehicles and locations. With your 3D accelerator, it's a fast, sharp, colourful universe - so detailed, in fact, you can see the trigger of a blaster. Enter the fray in 5 gameplay modes; ground shooter, space combat, speeder bike, jet pack and snow speeder - all in an effort to protect Luke from the evil clutches of Xizor - a face of evil so dark, you'll only find him in the shadows. www.lucasarts.com

™ & © Lucasfilm Ltd. All rights reserved. Used under authorisation. Marketed and distributed in the United Kingdom by Virgin Interactive Entertainment (Europe) Ltd. Virgin is a registered trademark of Virgin Enterprises Ltd.

CONTENTS

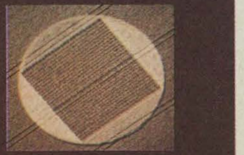
NOVEMBER 1997 No 104



FEATURES

22
SPIRIT OF THE LAW: 2
In the second part of his study of the law and paranormal phenomena, **Andrew Dennis** opens more odd and amusing cases that have tried judges' patience.

26
ALL ABOUT EVP
Can you tune into voices from beyond the grave on a radio? **Jürgen Heinzerling** looks at the work of the electronic voice phenomenon researchers who think so.



34
THE HAY-TEAM
This year's crop circle harvest yielded gigantic patterns of incredible intricacy. **John Michell** examines a mystery that baffles even the circle makers.

36
HELL'S BELLES
Returning to Blue Bell Hill, **Sean Tudor** discovers that there is much to be learned from folklore about phantom road accidents and hitch-hikers.

(TOP TO BOTTOM) PHOTO: IDK (MANIPULATION: ETIENNE); FABRICE; DOUGLAS ARMAND; STEVE ALEXANDER; IDK

REGULARS

4
EDITORIAL

6
STRANGE DAYS
An iceberg in the path of the good ship *News*.

42
FORUM
SAUCER HEADS
Roswellzapoppin! – Bruce Wright.
ALIEN HORIZONS
LoFLYTE all stars – James Easton.
ON THE TRAIL
It's hairy on the outside – Loren Coleman.
BITE ME
Watch out for maneaters – Patrick Huyghe.
PUB MONSTERS
Thar she's blown away – Darren Naish.
NECROLOG
Gone, but not forgotten – Bob Rickard.

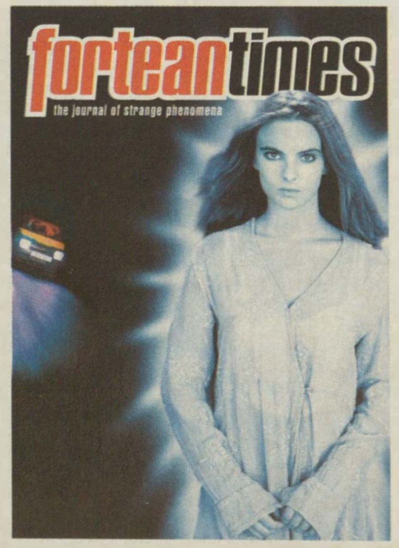
51
LETTERS

56
REVIEWS

60
READER INFORMATION

61
THE HIEROPHANT
Keeping an ear on it from his Fortress of Arrogance.

OFFERS
32 MERCHANDISE
Books, back issues, T-shirts and more.
55 SUBSCRIBE TODAY
Make sure you never miss an issue.



COVER IMAGE IDK
IMAGE MANIPULATION ETIENNE GILFILLAN

FOR DETAILS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS, HOW TO ENTER
COMPETITIONS, HOW TO SUBMIT
MATERIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION FOR
NEW READERS, SEE PAGE 60.

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES
01454 202515
MERCHANDISE & BOOK ORDERS/MAIL ORDER
01789 490215
GENERAL FT ENQUIRIES
0171 565 3128
PICTURE ENQUIRIES and SYNDICATION
Express Newspapers syndication 0171 922 7906

We occasionally use material that has been placed in the public domain. It is not always possible to identify the copyright holder. If you claim credit for something we've published we'll be pleased to make acknowledgement.

YOU CAN REACH FT ON THE INTERNET
www.forteantimes.com

THE GANG OF FORT
EDITORS
BOB RICKARD, PAUL SIEVEKING
MANAGING EDITOR
JOE GARDINER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JOE McNALLY
ART DIRECTOR
ETIENNE GILFILLAN
PICTURE RESEARCH
LISA ANDERS, TARA FISHER
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
MIKE DASH, STEVE MOORE, IAN SIMMONS
RESIDENT CARTOONIST
HUNT EMERSON
FORTEAN STUDIES EDITOR
STEVE MOORE
EDITORIAL ADMINISTRATOR
JONATHAN BRYANT
PUBLISHER
JOHN BROWN PUBLISHING LTD.
THE NEW BOATHOUSE, 136–142 BRAMLEY ROAD,
LONDON W10 6SR, UK.
TEL: 0171 565 3000 / FAX: 0171 565 3053
PUBLISHER MIKE DASH
ASSISTANT PUBLISHER LYNDA WHEELER
ELECTRONIC PUBLISHER JOHN INNES
CIRCULATION & SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER
LIZANNE BARBER
CIRCULATION & SUBSCRIPTIONS EXECUTIVE
KAREN WYATT
MERCHANDISE EXECUTIVE TERESA STOW
PRODUCTION MANAGER DEBBIE BICKNELL
ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES
FAX: 0171 565 3055
ADVERTISING MANAGER PAUL COGGINS
TEL: 0171 565 3149
paulc@johnbrown.co.uk
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CARL RUSHWORTH
TEL: 0171 565 3152
carlr@johnbrown.co.uk

AD DESIGN
KEITH JACKSON, RACHAEL KNAGGS
AD PRODUCTION
ZOË GRAY
ORIGINATION
GRAPHIC IDEAS STUDIOS
PRINTED BY
ET HERON
DISTRIBUTION
Distributed in UK by COMAG:
Taverstock Road, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 7QE
Tel: 01895 444055 / Fax: 01895 433602
Record Shop and Speciality Store distribution by Viz Comic Distribution, PO Box 1JE, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1JE. Tel: 0191 281 5629
Fax: 0191 281 1449
Distributed in USA by Eastern News Distributors Inc:
2020 Superior St, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.
Tel: (212) 649 4484 / Fax: (212) 265 6239
US readers can discover their nearest FT stockist by ringing Eastern News toll-free on (800) 221 3148.
STANDARD SUBSCRIPTION RATES
UK £30 per annum (12 issues); EU £37.50/US$70;
REST OF THE WORLD £45/US$90
US POSTMASTER
Fortean Times is published every month for US$59.40 per annum. Second Class postage is paid at Champlain, NY and additional mailing offices.
Please send address changes to:
Fortean Times, 3330 Pacific Avenue, Suite 404,
Virginia Beach VA 23451 2983, USA
ABC Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.
Printed in the UK.
ISSN 0308 5899
© Fortean Times. September 1997

EDITORIAL

NOVEMBER 1997 No 104

OH DIANA!

Earl Spencer, in his moving eulogy for his sister Diana, Princess of Wales, made a specific request that people should not think of her as a saint and that she should not be canonised or beatified in any way. Millions of mourners around the world have overlooked this in their adoration of Diana. It's our opinion that where the cult of Elvis has been driven more by media amusement and commercial interests, the strength of popular feeling for Diana – however fantasised as 'Queen of Hearts' – shows very real signs of becoming an intercessional cult under its own momentum. Reconciling most of the aspects of the Great Mother religion of antiquity, the new goddess Diana even borrows from the rival cults of Mother Teresa, Princess Grace and Evita; perhaps, in time, all will be rolled into one.

In Lebanon, an elderly man renamed his restaurant after her saying: "She will not die even though her body left this world. She is immortal." Already, healings have been attributed to her and her apparition has been seen in a portrait of Charles I in St James's Palace.

As Forteans, we are keenly interested in what people believe and why, so we will be watching the development of the Diana cult, especially as it touches on other topics, such as conspiracy theory. Anyone monitoring the internet in the week after the death of Diana and Dodi Fayed in Paris could not fail to notice the prompt appearance of a number of bizarre notions: they were killed by arms dealers, British royalists, Moslem fundamentalists... there were even stories of strange lights, unmarked cars and sounds of gunfire.

Just two days after the fatal crash, Libya's President Moamer Kadhafi astonished the world by claiming that the accident was an assassination engineered by the British and French secret services. "Britain is the vilest of countries," he said, for "executing an Arab citizen who wanted to marry an English princess." The British Foreign Office's stern rebuke and denial, however, did not head-off the excitable Egyptian press, whose front-page frenzy gripped its readership with a soap-opera of intrigue: Diana had to die, they twittered, because she would have converted to Islam and presented the future King of England with coffee-coloured half-brothers or sisters.

Since Fort's time there have been very few wholly new subject areas to add to the roster of Fortean topics. The Diana phenomenon is one – our first report on it is by Joe McNally on page 8 – and so are the crop circles – see page 34 for the most striking of this year's formations. Our cover story concerns yet another, although it can be argued that the Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP) is merely a modern form of spiritualism in which electronic equipment is substituted for the medium or channeller. Despite the huge body of research data, we are well aware that the subject is contentious and would like to hear from anyone who can disprove it. In the meantime, we welcome Jürgen Heinzerling's sympathetic overview on page 26 which will introduce this very weird subject to a much wider audience. We hope to have some EVP samples on the *FT* website and you'll be able to vote on which of three samples is not genuine.

WE'RE ON THE MOVE

Fortean Towers is relocating to a new site and the Gang of Fort can now be reached at The New Boathouse, 136–142 Bramley Road, London W10 6SR. The switchboard number is 0171 565 3000. See Reader Information on page 60 for full contact details.

Paul Sieveking

FEATURE WRITERS THIS ISSUE

JÜRGEN HEINZERLING

With his background in electronic engineering and a long-standing interest in Fortean research, Jürgen is a full-time writer with six fiction and non-fiction books published. Married and a father of one, he also acts as the protector of his village on Germany's border with Holland, driving back the hordes of the undead by wielding his electric guitar. Of indeterminate age, Jürgen is also a stalwart of the 'forteana' e-mail list.
heinzerling_clan@t-online.de

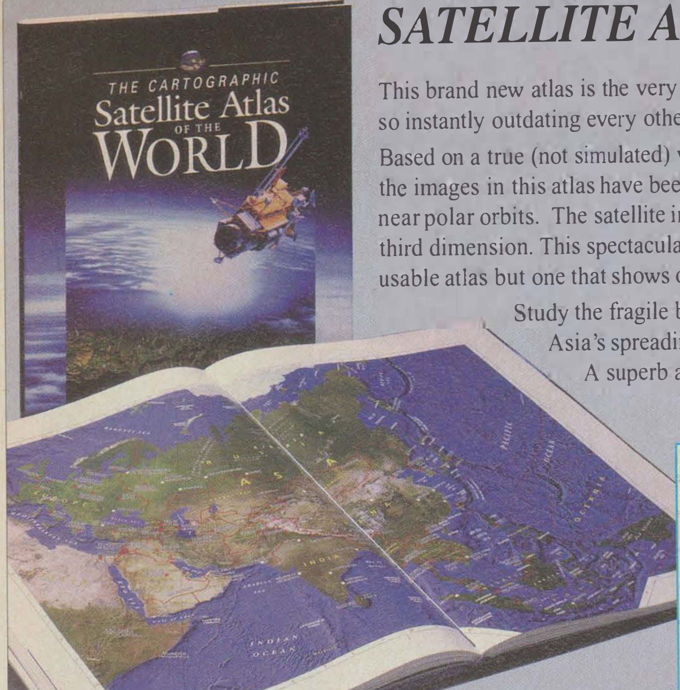
SEAN TUDOR

Sean, 33, who works in the food industry, first heard the Kentish legend of the phantom of Blue Bell Hill on the day his family moved to Maidstone, in 1981. Little did he know then that his interest in producing a local history booklet on the phenomenon would grow into full-blown project that made him an authority on 'hitchhiking ghosts' and the importance of the location in many Fortean phenomena [see his first article on the subject in FT73:27]. Sean is looking for a publisher for his 110,000 word manuscript.

JOHN MICHEL

John, 63, is one of forteana's most distinguished veterans. His first book *The Flying Saucer Vision* (1967) beat Erich von Däniken to the 'ancient astronaut and ancient wisdom' motherload by a year, handling it with more wisdom and imagination. This was followed by another classic, *The View over Atlantis* (1969) and a whole series of works on standing stones, simulacra, astro-archæology and neo-platonic cosmology especially as applied to the ancient landscape. With Bob Rickard, he wrote *Phenonema* (1977) and *Living Wonders* (1982).

IDEAL GIFT



SATELLITE ATLAS OF THE WORLD

This brand new atlas is the very first of its kind, presenting the most realistic view of Earth ever achieved and so instantly outdating every other world atlas previously produced!

Based on a true (not simulated) view of Earth from 800 kilometres into space (that's 100 times higher than Everest), the images in this atlas have been created by processing signals gathered in space by satellites circling the Earth in near polar orbits. The satellite images are further enhanced with elevation data giving the final maps a breathtaking third dimension. This spectacular view of Earth with a traditional cartographic overlay results in not only a truly usable atlas but one that shows our whole planet for the very first time as it really is.

Study the fragile beauty of our planet, from the Amazon's disappearing rain forest, to Africa and Asia's spreading deserts, to the savage beauty of the Canyon Lands of the Colorado Plateau.
A superb addition to any map collection and an ideal gift for armchair explorers everywhere!

(SAMPLE DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD)

FRANCE
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Gibraltar (UK)
MOROCCO
ALGERIA

Features:
- Hardback, 23 x 34 cm, 144 page
- Comprehensive glossary & index of 11,000 entries
- Detailed views of cityscapes and geographical features
- Superb satellite mapping at 1 kilometre resolution of the entire planet
- World facts/figures plus overview of technology behind satellite mapping

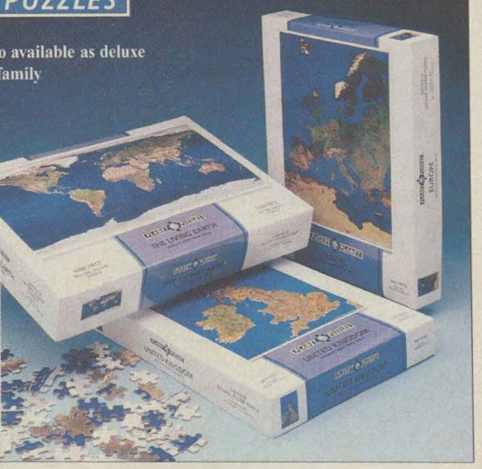
NOT AVAILABLE IN ANY SHOPS!

Many more Satellite views available - from Regions to Continents Phone: 0990 862013 for more information
THE EARTH

This stunning view of the Earth from space was created with a unique combination of hundreds of satellite images, depicting ocean floor relief data whilst bringing the Earth topography to life. Available laminated or paper. Size: 61x91cm Scale: 1:47,000,000.

PLANET PUZZLES

Our satellite maps are also available as deluxe jigsaw puzzles. You, your family and friends will have hours of enjoyment "putting the world together"!



The Living Earth
1000 pieces Size: 41 x 79cm

Europe From Space
500 pieces Size: 48 x 35cm

United Kingdom From Space
500 pieces Size: 48 x 35cm

HOW TO ORDER
EITHER ☎ ring on 0990 862013
OR fax on: 0171 371 0473 with your credit card details.
OR post this completed form to:
MAP MARKETING LTD, FREEPOST, LONDON SW6 3BR

NAME (MR/MRS/MS):
ADDRESS:
POSTCODE:
DAYTIME TELEPHONE NO:

DESCRIPTION	QTY REQ	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
SATELLITE ATLAS OF THE WORLD		£19.99	
EARTH FROM SPACE MAP (Laminated)		£16.99	
EARTH FROM SPACE MAP (Paper)		£9.99	
THE LIVING EARTH JIGSAW PUZZLE		£10.99	
EUROPE FROM SPACE JIGSAW PUZZLE		£8.99	
UNITED KINGDOM FROM SPACE JIGSAW PUZZLE		£8.99	
		SUB TOTAL	
		DELIVERY	£3.95
		TOTAL	

SPECIAL OFFER CODE: 8A7i

IF YOU ORDER AN ATLAS AND ANY OTHER PRODUCT SHOWN, YOU MAY SELECT A PUZZLE FREE!
PLEASE TICK: LIVING EARTH ☐ EUROPE ☐ UK ☐

EITHER I enclose a cheque for the amount of £
Please make all cheques payable to Map Marketing Limited.
OR Please charge my credit card account:
We accept: MASTERCARD/VISA/AMERICAN EXPRESS/DINERS (Delete as appropriate).
Credit Card account number:

Signature: .... Expiry date ....

PLEASE ALLOW 14 DAYS FOR DELIVERY. SHOULD YOU NOT WISH TO RECEIVE PROMOTIONAL LITERATURE FROM OTHER COMPANIES PLEASE WRITE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

sidelines

ZERO IN: North Korea is henceforth to consider 1912 – the birh year of its late leader Kim Il Sung's birth – as year zero, the Communist government announced on 9 July. It was not clear whether the new numbering system would be put into practical use, making this year, for example, 85. *D.Telegraph, 10 July 1997.*

BITE THE BULLET: Doctors who had been unsuccessfully treating a 10-year-old girl for an infected insect bite for six weeks removed a .22 rifle bullet from her thigh. The girl and her family, from southern Sweden, said they did not know how she was shot. The girl felt a pain in her leg while playing outside her home and looked down to see an insect crawling from her jeans. *[AFP] 9 Aug 1997.*

I'M BACK: Abdel-Sattar Abdel-Salem Badawi, a chauffeur in his 60s, suffering from fibrosis of the liver, was pronounced dead in a hospital in the Nile delta city of Menoufia, 65 miles (105km) north-west of Cairo and was put in a morgue refrigerator.

Revived by the cold, he awoke from a coma after 12 hours, slid open the coffin lid and began chanting verses from the Koran and shouting for help. No-one heard, but then three hospital orderlies came in to remove his body and found him standing up. One of them fell dead from shock. Mr Badawi vowed never again to go to hospital. *[AP,AFP] 15 July 1997.*

POLTER-GOOSED: A Indian woman in Nishan, 125 miles (200km) from Bombay, was taken to hospital in shock claiming that a poltergeist slapped her on the bottom as she was about to urinate in a public lavatory. The resulting scare was so great that armed guards were posted outside the convenience. Reporters suggested the poltergeist story was connected to the sale of a plot of land nearby, which was held up because of the public lavatory. *Hong Kong Standard, 5 July 1997.*

owls of surprise

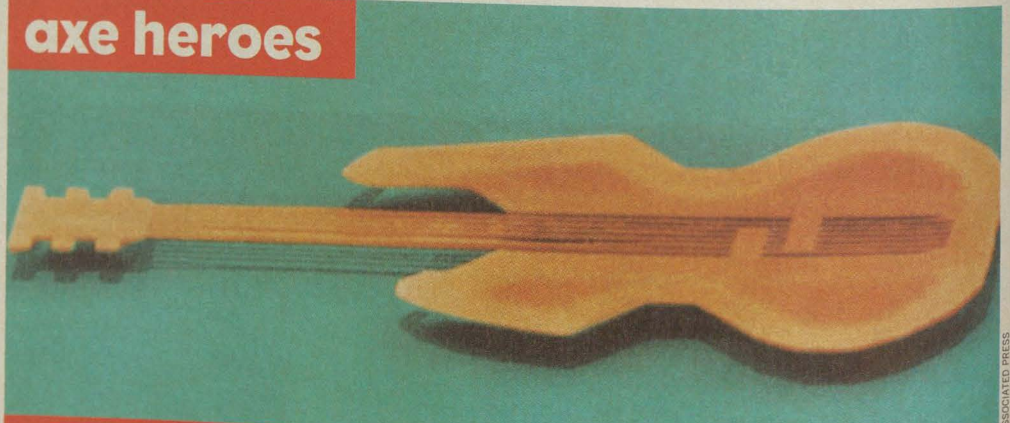
THESE BABY OWLS were born at a wildlife sanctuary near Goss Moor, Cornwall, between 1 and 5 April, after two supposedly male African spotted eagle owls, Harley (aged two) and Ernie Duke (aged three), were put in the same aviary. The sanctuary's owners Carolyn and Tom Screech [sic] realised Harley was a female when she laid three eggs. They'd put the pair together to stop them screeching – now their wooing has helped conserve the rare species. *Western Morning News, Express, 1 May 1997.*

PAUL SLATER/APEX

like a pig in...

PIGS WERE THROWN almost half a mile by a tornado that struck a farm in Nottinghamshire on 31 August. The freak wind picked up huts containing about 40 animals at Michael Hewson's farm at Sutton-on-Trent, near Newark. "There were dead pigs everywhere," he said. "The wind was strong enough to pick up huts which normally take four people to lift. Allison Reed, a neighbour whose house was badly damaged, said: "We saw these pig huts swirling round 100ft (30m) up in the air. My son shouted that there were pigs being hurled around among chimney pots and tiles. The low air pressure was unbelievable." Two children were slightly injured, a bungalow's double glazing was shattered and part of its roof blown away. *D.Telegraph, Times, Irish Times, 3 Sept 1997.*

axe heroes



ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE WORLD'S SMALLEST guitar is 10μm long, about the size of a human blood cell, with the width of around one-twentieth that of a human hair. Dustin Carr and Harold Craighead of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, sculpted the 'nanoguitar" from a layer of crystalline silicon on an oxide substrate using a beam of electrons to demonstrate the possibilities of building devices at the microscopic level. They then chemically etched away some of the oxide to leave six free-standing guitar strings, each about 100 atoms thick. You could strum the guitar with the tip of an atomic force microscope, but the sound would be at frequencies inaudible to the human ear. *[AP] 24 July; New Scientist, 2 Aug 1997.*

THIS JUST IN

HOLD THE FRONT PAGE – POST YOUR HOT NEWS TO OUR VIRTUAL REPORTING CENTRE
www.forteantimes.com/report

DO DO THAT VOODOO

Relatives of those who died in the Haitian ferry disaster on 8 September are reported to have burned another ferry owned by a competing company, claiming that they used voodoo to cause the disaster in order to discredit their competitors. At least 200 people died in the disaster, which took place on the island of La Gonave. The angry crowd also attempted to lynch the rival owner's wife. Nereus Jean-Joseph, 42, was attempting to charter a plane to flee the island when she was surrounded by a crowd chanting, "You people have good magic, that's why our people are dead." She eventually fled to a police station, where officials held the mob at bay and urged them to leave the matter with the judicial authorities. The owner, Djo Jean-Joseph, had already left the island for his own safety.

The voodoo rumour apparently originated with the island's mayor, Simon La Pointe, who said that "[Djo] had given three days for the boat to sink, and everyone knew that. Voodoo is something you just can't exclude in the Haitian system." *CNN, 11 Sept 1997.*

PRIME EXAMPLE

A British mathematician has calculated the highest known prime number using only his personal computer. Information technology manager Gordon Spence, 38, identified a prime 895,932 digits long, more than double the length of the previous largest prime, which clocked in at 420,921 digits. The new prime would fill a 450-page paperback book. It is also one of a subset of primes known as Mersenne numbers, which are enormous powers of two minus one; the new number is 2 to the power of 2,976,221 minus one. The calculation took 15 hours. *Times, 5 Sept 1997.*

GOVT. HQ FOUND

A group of Israeli archæologists have announced that they have discovered the Roman government complex in Cæsaria where St Paul was imprisoned and tried. The team, headed by Yosef Porat, discovered Latin inscriptions which suggested that the ruins they were excavating were Roman secret police barracks during the period when St Paul was imprisoned. The complex includes a palace, bath house and courtyards, and a cellar which the investigators believe was used as a jail. *D. Telegraph, 10 Sept 1997.*

IT'S RAINING EELS

An eel fell on a power line and blacked out about 500 households in Yokosuka south of Tokyo for just under an hour on 31 July. Officials of the Tokyo Electric Co. said inspectors found the 1ft 7in (50cm) eel charred on a 6,000-volt powerline. Speculation was that a Japanese kite had dropped it. A few days later, Mads Bill from Berlin, visiting the Danish town of Nykobing Falter on his holidays, was outdoors drinking a cup of coffee when a "big and slimy" eel splashed down on his head. Again, it's thought that a bird had dropped it... or do some eels migrate to the Super-Sargasso Sea that Fort postulated? Victoria (BC) Times-Colonist, 2 Aug; Sydvenskan (Sweden), 12 Aug 1997.

hot pants

A SUPERMARKET CHECKOUT worker was left with a 3in (7cm) scar on her bottom after her knickers "spontaneously combusted". Melanie Thompson, 25, said the Marks & Spencer knickers caught fire while she was at the till of the Co-op hypermarket in Hindley, Lancashire. She rushed to the loo, peeled off the smouldering underwear and doused it with water before returning knickerless to finish her shift. Marks & Spencer tested the £6.50 polyamide, polyester and Lycra garment, but said that no fault was found. "We believe they must have come into contact with some kind of acidic substance," said a spokesman. Thompson insisted this was impossible. There was no acid in the shop and the rest of her clothing was undamaged. She was not smoking at the time, nor were there any naked flames nearby. Marks & Spencer sent her £10 of gift vouchers "as a sincere gesture of goodwill".

"I thought I'd been stung by a bee," said Thompson, of Golborne, near Wigan. Bob Smith, a consultant fire expert, discounted the most obvious theory: that the briefs caught fire because friction caused a build-up of static. *D.Telegraph, 14 Aug; D.Mail, Halifax Eve. Courier, 15 Aug 1997.*

THE SUN

KNICKERS: Melanie Thompson and her burning pants

sidelines

ROAD PIZZA: Paramedics feared the worst on 25 July when they found two men staggering from their wrecked Fiat Tipo apparently covered in blood. Unusually, their car appeared to be bleeding too, as did the DAF lorry that had collided with them. In fact, the lorry had been carrying tons of pizza topping which had coated the crash scene on the A12 near Colchester, Essex. *Times, 26 July 1997.*

ROCK DROP: A 53lb (24kg) boulder fell from the sky into a garden in the Kostroma region, about 200 miles (320km) northeast of Moscow. Konstantin Nechayev, a resident of Ikonnikova village, says the impact created a 3ft (1m) deep crater as it crashed into the ground with a "whip and grinding sound similar to that of a bullet fired from a hunting rifle."

He dug out the skull-shaped stone to find it cool to the touch and split in two, revealing an apple-size cavity at its core. Government officials measured the radiation level of the rock, but found nothing unusual. The probable meteorite was sent to the Ministry of the Interior to be analysed. *Vancouver Sun, 7 June 1997.*

...AND ICE, TOO: Two large blocks of ice which crashed into the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo from clear skies are believed to be part of a meteor. The first chunk weighed more than 110lb (50kg) and tore through the tiled roof of a bus factory on 11 July in Campinas. The second came down on 15 July, about 37 miles (60km) north of Campinas, making a small crater. Officials at the local airport ruled out the more conventional explanation of ice from an aircraft, as none was passing at the corresponding times. *Rocky Mountain News, 28 July 1997.*

PIECE OF PIE: Yasumasa Kanada of Tokyo University has calculated pi – the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter – to 51,539,607,552 decimal places, beating by more than 48 billion the number of decimal places calculated by his American rivals, David and Gregory Chudnovsky of Columbia University. The latest number is completely useless. Just 39 places of decimals are sufficient to calculate the circumference of a circle girdling the known universe to within the radius of the hydrogen atom – but really, 3.142 will do for most of us. *Times, 25 July 1997.*

STUCK ON YOU: An Australian burglar broke into a woman's home and deliberately glued the side of his face to her foot. Cops were stuck for a motive. *Sunday Mail, 10 Aug 1997.*

sidelines

OH, XXXX: The French satellite channel Canal France International (CFI) broadcast a 30-minute hardcore porn film on a Saudi Arabian communications satellite providing services to 21 Arab countries, instead of a scheduled children's programme. A technician at the France Telecom switching centre, which feeds TV pictures to satellite stations, apparently decided to liven up a tedious shift by watching the porn movie, unaware that he was sharing the experience with a potential audience of 33 million Arabs. Saudi Arabia called the blunder an "attack on Islamic morals" and cancelled the £5 million contract with CFI. *Times, 23 July; Sunday Times, 27 July 1997.*

SHARK ATTACK: A pub landlady was attacked by a shark as she worked in her bar. Liz Currie was badly cut when the stuffed and mounted fish, said to have been caught in the Indian Ocean in the 1820s, fell off a wall at the Wheatsheaf at Boughbeech, near Edenbridge, Kent. *D.Mail, 29 July 1997.*

BIG CAT HUNT: People in two French regions were asked to organise hunting parties last July to try and capture a puma and a lion. The lion was apparently sighted near Bas-en-Basset in the Loire, and a teacher from Marquefave, near Toulouse, Haute Garonne, gave police a video of what appeared to be a puma he saw on 19 July. There had been no reports of escapes from circuses or zoos. *D.Telegraph, 23 July 1997.*

FRESH WATER: In an indication of how clean the Thames now is, millions of tiny sea bass have been seen swimming upstream into London, a phenomenon unknown since the industrial revolution. "They were seen at Lambeth Bridge in unbelievable numbers," said a spokesman for the Environment Agency. The tiny fry will probably swim as far as Teddington and will grow to be 2–2.7in (5–7cm) long before swimming back out to sea. *Western Morning News, 12 Aug 1997.*

IN THE PICTURE: The Glover family from Southampton bought holiday postcards in France and discovered themselves in the picture. David Glover with his wife and son had been photographed in the main street of Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie in the Vendée on their last visit four years ago. *Times, 3 Sept 1997.*

COP ATTACK: Two policewomen, Josie Barber, 30, and Jenny Pyle, 23, were trapped in their car as boxer dog Floyd chewed at their tyres until three of them had burst. They had been called in after Floyd attacked a horse in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire. Floyd's owner offered the police £150 compensation, but a prosecution was being considered. *Sun, 16 July 1997.*

princess of conspiracy

Within days of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales in a car crash on 31 August, the internet's conspiracy theorists were hard at work. An enormous number of often mutually contradictory theories had begun to bounce around the net by the following evening, with a new Usenet newsgroup – alt.conspiracy.princess-diana – devoted entirely to discussion of the latest ideas.

Inevitably, one of the first to get in on the act was the redoubtable Conspiracy Nation, an internet conspiracy magazine. Under the heading "Princess Diana: Crushed Between The East And The West", they claimed that "Paris is becoming a centre of political assassination", and drew attention to the recent deaths in the city of Amscael Rothschild and US ambassador to France Pamela Harriman, both of whom they claim as victims of assassination. Diana, they explain, "was killed on a sacred section called Pont l'Alma" where "most every royal family in Europe comes from". They go on to cite "unreleased witness reports" that another vehicle deliberately bumped into Diana's car as it reached a previously-placed oil slick, causing it to crash into "an intentional, heavy obstruction". This second car, they allege, contained agents in the employ of "the super-secret Committee of Twenty-Six, headquartered in Bristol, England [and] skilled in murder disguised as auto accident". According to Conspiracy Nation, French Intelligence had been tipped off in advance about the crash, which was orchestrated by "various Western intelligence agencies", and held off allowing Paris police to attend the crash scene. They are also claimed to have impounded video evidence from the press photographers said to have been pursuing Diana's Mercedes.

DIANA
1961–1997

PA NEWS

The Pont l'Alma reference is expanded upon in a subsequent bulletin on the subject, where the pseudonymous 'Ru Mills' goes into more detail on the various strands of the conspiracy. Pont l'Alama, 'Mills' writes, was a site sacred to the Merovingian kings, and a traditional site for duels between them; the loser in a duel was, according to legend, automatically admitted to heaven, and allowed to sit at God's right hand. The reason for Diana's death was, she asserts, her refusal to marry Bill Clinton as instructed by their masters, the Rothschilds. The driver – a brainwashed patsy, inevitably – had been drugged with "special slowly-digestible balloons containing high-potency alcohol" in order to provide a scapegoat. The death of Diana, 'Mills' claims, will "eventually lead to the creation of a 'Saint Diana'". "Diana's two children," 'Mills' continues, "will become akin to two living Jesus Christs, walking the Earth. It will be the start of 'the new religion'. Who controls the new religion controls the world."

The newsgroup alt.conspiracy.princess-diana had plenty to say on the matter of how Diana 'really' died. One correspondent said that the Egyptian press were strongly pushing claims of a conspiracy. The government paper *Al Ahram* quoted alleged eyewitnesses to the crash as saying they believed it was "a premeditated accident". The *Al-Osbue* weekly proposed a racist Secret Service plot to end Diana's relationship with Dodi al-Fayed, and suggested that the motorbikes following the crashed limousine were not ridden by photographers, as "it is difficult to ride a motorbike and take photographs at the same time". Egyptian news agency MENA referred to "the scenario of events and racist plots which preceded the accident", while the daily newspaper *Al Alam Al Yom* summed it all up rather neatly: "In 20 years, perhaps the press will give us the answer to the mysterious questions. Two answers exist: a clear one, the pursuit of the papparazzi, and another for those who love plots."

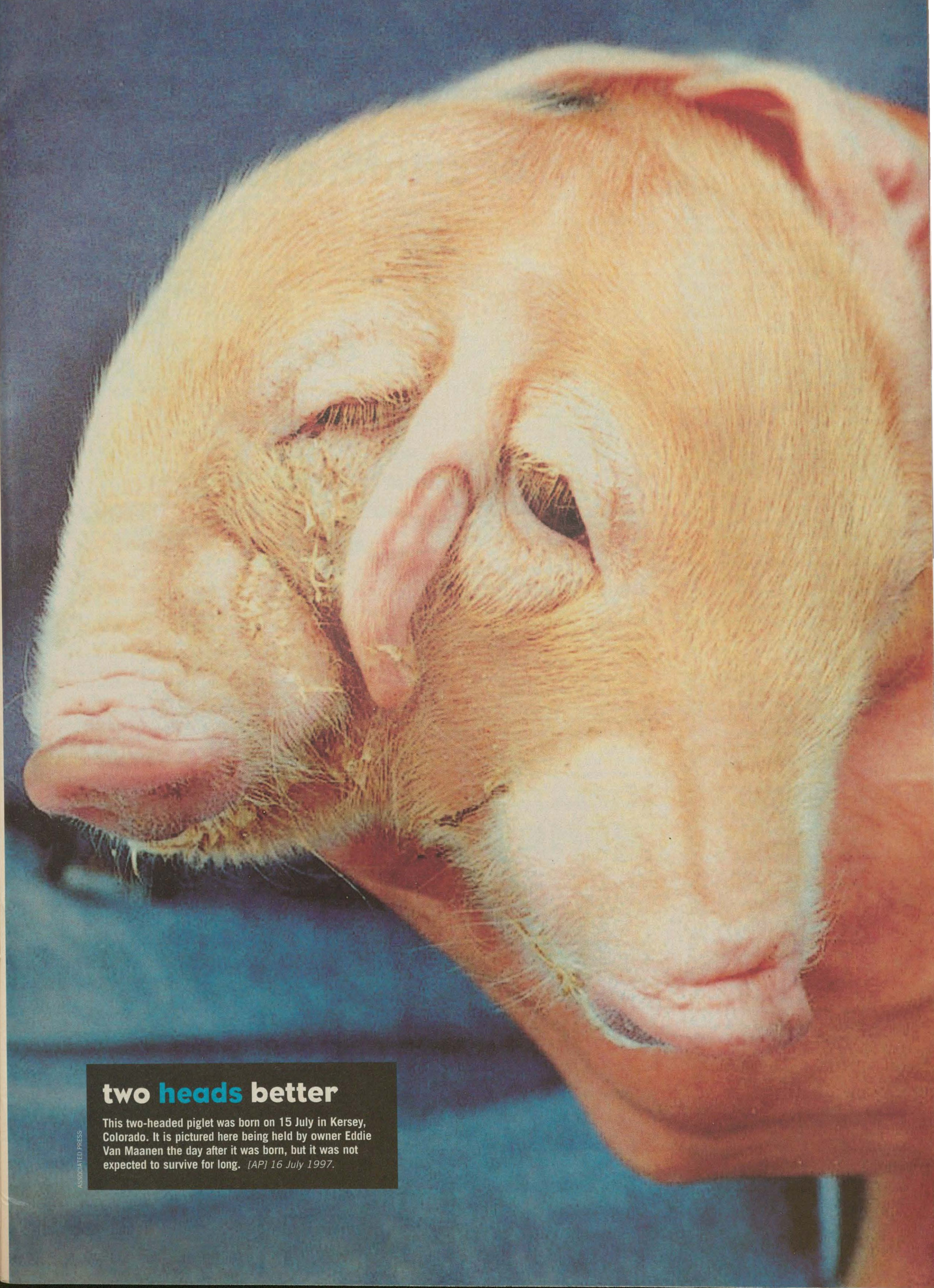
Other theories, more curious and less well-thought-out, are presently two-a-penny. A brief scan of alt.conspiracy.princess-diana suggested the following: Diana was killed by arms manufacturers, by the Royal Family, by an Arab suicide bomber, by the intelligence agencies of almost any country you care to name, or by members of her own anti-landmine alliance (in order to elevate her to martyrhood); the deaths were faked, to enable Diana and Dodi to escape the attentions of the world's press; the driver had been dosed with LSD with a device known as a micro-injector, fitted to his brain during surgery for a routine complaint; Di was pregnant by Dodi al-Fayed, and that this was the "shock announcement" she had promised to reveal "in a matter of weeks" shortly before her death.

A number of curious coincidences also surround Diana's death. It was noted by many correspondents on the JG Ballard e-mail mailing list that the events contained remarkably detailed similarities to Ballard's novel *Crash*, the film version of which has caused a great deal of controversy in the last year. The novel opens with Elizabeth Taylor – at that time arguably the leading international symbol of wealth and glamour – dying in a car crash with her lover, while many of the press reports – notably Mercedes-Benz's statement to AP that "passengers in a car that crashes into immovable concrete at speeds of 60 mph or greater are subjected to such pull and pressure that their inner veins and other organs burst" – are strongly reminiscent of the novel's prose.

It has also been remarked that Diana's death fits worryingly closely into the pattern of king-sacrifice in pagan cults. It was often the case that a "substitute king" would be treated as a living god for a year, then killed by his worshippers; the sacrifice would variously ensure the success of the following harvest, or bolster the well-being of the realm. Folklorist and writer Leslie Ellen Jones pointed out on the Forteana e-mail list that: "The idea of a Dianic 'sacrifice' seems particularly appropriate since the whole Margaret Murray-esque notion of a scapegoat sacrifice assumes that a male is sacrificed for a king. [Britain has] a queen currently on the throne, so it would make perfect mythological sense that a woman and the ex of the heir to boot would be the one to be offered..."

Moreover, Diana was the Greek goddess of hunting, while Princess Diana died while apparently being pursued by a pack of photographers. This one, we suspect, will run and run; it can only be a matter of time before the shade of Diana makes its debut in the pages of *Psychic News*.

SOURCES:
Conspiracy Nation, 1&3 Sept; alt.conspiracy.princess-diana newsgroup, 1–3 Sept 1997.



two heads better

This two-headed piglet was born on 15 July in Kersey, Colorado. It is pictured here being held by owner Eddie Van Maanen the day after it was born, but it was not expected to survive for long. *[AP] 16 July 1997.*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

sidelines

MAKE A DATE: When the Loyal Orange Institute of Scotland moved from their Glasgow HQ to temporary accommodation in the city, Atlantic Telecom insisted on giving them a new number, chosen at random. The Orangemen's group couldn't believe it when they saw the new number: 0141-400-1690. "We were concerned that our members get to know it quickly," said the group's secretary, "and it really couldn't have been better, could it?" (It had to be explained to the telephone company that the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 is the most famous date in the Loyalist calendar). *D.Record, 24 July 1997.*

TWIT TWOOS: Every night for a year, amateur owl breeder Neil Simmons, 41, hooted at a wild tawny owl roosting at the end of his garden, but the owl remained silent. Then Fred Cornes, 58, moved in next door, heard an owl hooting and answered back. For 12 months the neighbours crept into their back gardens in Stokeinteignhead, Devon, and unwittingly hooted at each other. Mr Simmons studiously logged every time one of his calls met with an answer from the wild. The pair would still be at it if it were not for a chance conversation between their wives last July. *Times, D.Telegraph, Express, 25 July 1997.*

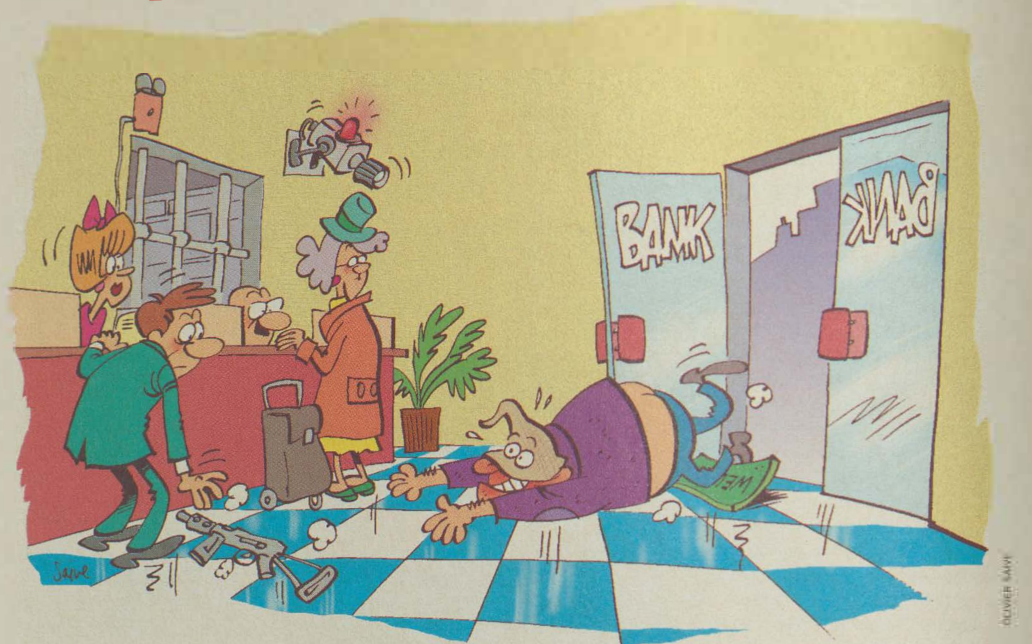
A GREAT LEAP: The population of lemmings in Sweden, Finland and Norway has exploded this year and Finnish experts predict there will be a great migration of lemmings in the spring of 1998. These suicidal migrations are rare, happening on average once every 30 years. *Expressen (Sweden), 10 Aug 1997.*

STICK WITH IT: Dutchman Wim Alaerds, 24, had more than doubled the world pole-sitting record by the time he left his 8ft (2.4m) perch on 21 June after 51 days. The annual pole-sitting championship began at Soltau, near Hamburg, on 1 May. *[AP] 23 June 1997.*

KIN HELL: A couple divorced after a week of marriage when they discovered they were twins. Veneline and Marieta Vassilevi, now 25, were raised in an orphanage before being adopted by different families, one in Plovdiv in southern Bulgaria, the other in Varna on the Black Sea. They ended up as students in the same class at the Varna Institute of Economic Science. When Veneline brought his wife to meet his natural mother, she fainted on seeing her daughter. *[AFP] 22 Aug 1997.*

HOLY POTATO: Momina Ahmed cut open a potato in Gauhati in the remote north east of India on 20 August and found the words "Allah" and "Mohammed" written in orange Arab lettering. In the next two days, more than 10,000 Muslims made the pilgrimage to her house. *[AP] 23 Aug 1997.*

crop of criminal croppers



OLIVIER SAVE

THIEVES IN RYTON, Tyne and Wear, scaled a 6ft (1.8m) fence, dodged two Alsatian guard dogs and forced bolts and locks to get into Bob Hodgson's pigeon loft. They made off with 40 homing pigeons in three wicker baskets. Surprise, surprise – 24 hours later, all but eight of the birds had flown back to the loft. The remaining eight were fledglings who had probably not yet learned to fly. *Express, 14 May 1997.*

ON 21 MAY, Army private Daniel Bowden, 20, robbed his own federal credit union in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, of $4,759. Twelve days later, he was arrested when he returned and tried to deposit the loot in his personal account through the very bank teller he had held up. Bowden, who did not wear a mask, is a military police officer with training on handling bank robberies. He is also a suspect in the robbery of another northern Virginia bank on 12 May. *USA Today, 5 June 1997.*

A WEEK LATER, David Hindmarsh strolled into a bank in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and informed a teller that he had a pipe bomb and wanted money. The teller said he had to wait – so he rejoined the queue. Twenty minutes later, he was given a bag containing $1,500, but outside the bank, police and TV cameras were waiting for him, as the bank teller had given the alarm. Hindmarsh was arrested without a struggle. The 'bomb' was a lavatory roll. *[AP] 11 June 1997.*

ROSIE LEE HILL called the police in Pensacola, Florida, in March and complained that she had been sold fake crack cocaine. An officer came round and was shown two 'rocks' which Lee said tasted like baking soda. The officer agreed, but found the stuff was real crack. Ms Hill, 35, was busted. *[AP] 6 Mar 1997.*

STEPHEN KING II tried to rob the Bank of America branch of Merced, California, in April by brandishing his uncovered finger and thumb and demanding money. The teller asked King to wait, then walked away. King got tired of waiting, so he crossed the street to another bank where he jumped over the counter and tried to get the key to a cash drawer. An employee grabbed the key and told him to get out. Police found him sitting in the bushes nearby. A few weeks later, an Angolan tried to hold up the staff in a Madrid cafe with an umbrella. He was quickly overpowered and handed over to the police. *Boston Sunday Herald, 20 April; Hong Kong Standard, 27 May 1997.*

MEANWHILE IN BAYREUTH, southern Germany, a man called a mobile telephone number, ordered 25g of illegal amphetamine and arranged a meeting place for the handover. The only trouble was that the number had been given to him by the police during questioning last year. In the event, the customer got handcuffs rather than speed. *[R] 16 April 1997.*

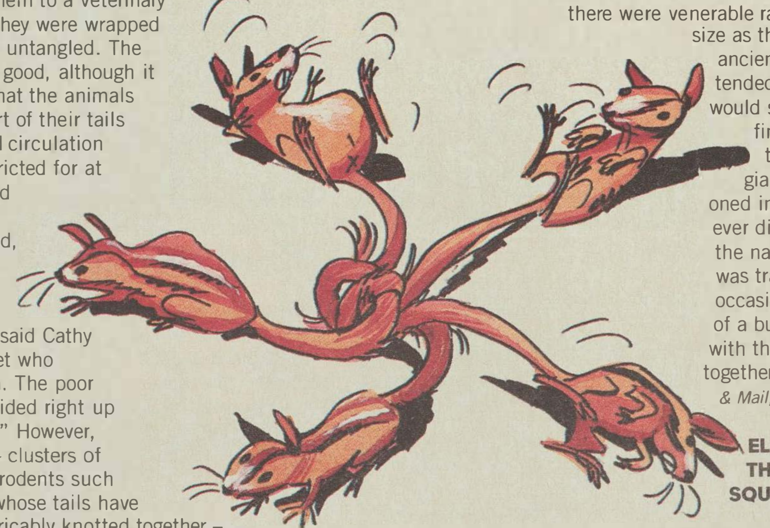
AN ISRAELI THIEF who ransacked a house in Haifa agreed to a date with policewoman Yardena Rahamim when she rang him on the mobile phone he had stolen. Dressed to the nines and reeking of aftershave, the 22-year-old suspect drove to his nemesis in a car he had stolen in the break-in. *Times, Hong Kong Standard, 8 April 1997.*

PACO BOCCONINI SNATCHED £3,000 from a post office in Cariato, Italy, and raced outside to find his getaway car had been stolen. He had left the engine running. *D.Record, 21 June 1997.*

BARRY PARKS, 35, walked out of Somewhere Antiques, Winchester, carrying a cuckoo clock. When picked up by the police shortly afterwards, he said he had taken the clock to release the cuckoo. Appearing before Basingstoke magistrates, his defence was that he had taken three very strong LSD tablets before the incident. *Hampshire Chronicle, 16 May 1997.*

SIDONIA WILLIAMS, a retired court clerk, wanted to open a charge account at a department store on New York's Fifth Avenue. Asked how she would pay, she reached into her duffel bag and presented a $1,000,000 bill. The police found 194 counterfeit or altered bills in her bag. Making money was her hobby, she said. To make the $1,000,000 bill, she pasted zeroes on a $1 bill and ran it off on a colour copier. Last May, Federal Magistrate Ronald Ellis tried to explain to Williams that the government did not make $1,000,000 bills and that it is illegal to make your own. Willams disagreed. "In this case it was legal, sir," she said. *NY Daily News, 8 May 1997.*

twisted tails of squirrels



FABRIC

IN JULY, FIVE squirrels, about eight to 10 weeks old, were found under a tree in Brantford, Ontario, with their tails braided together, making them look like a "big furry spider". The local Humane Society took them to a veterinary clinic, where they were wrapped in a towel and untangled. The prognosis was good, although it was thought that the animals would lose part of their tails because blood circulation had been restricted for at least a day and maybe two.

"In my mind, there's no question it was done deliberately," said Cathy Séguin, the vet who released them. The poor guys were braided right up to their butts." However, "Rat Kings" – clusters of rats (or other rodents such as squirrels) whose tails have become inextricably knotted together – have been known as a rare and fascinating natural phenomenon for centuries. Martin Hart in his book *Rats* (1982) lists 57 such 'Kings' discovered between 1564 and 1963. The ten-fold rat King found in the Westphalian village of Capelle in 1907 was borrowed from the University of Göttingen for the 1995 Fortean exhibition, "Of Monsters and Miracles", in Croydon Clocktower.

Two earlier Squirrel Kings were noted in FT63:13. One of six young animals was found in a hedge in Easton, Pennsylvania, in September 1989. The tails could not be disentangled and they were put down. The second, with five squirrels (two of them albino) knotted together, fell out of a tree in Baltimore, Maryland, in September 1991. These were successfully separated. For a Bird King, see FT67:63.

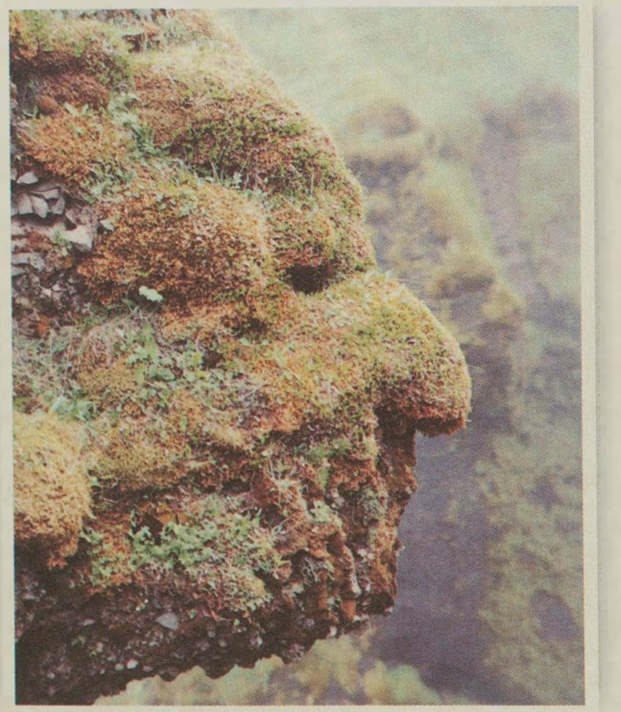
According to ancient fable, each species of animal had its own society presided over by a king. Conrad Gesner wrote in 1555 of the belief that there were venerable rats who grew in size as they grew more ancient and were tended by a pack who would steal food and fine velvet for their lord. No giant rat imprisoned in splendour was ever discovered, but the name 'Rat King' was transferred to the occasional discovery of a bundle of rodents with their tails tied together. *Toronto Globe & Mail, 16 July 1997.*

ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD OF SQUIRRELS...

A SQUIRREL RAN amok and bit six people in Denning Road, Hampstead, north London, on 25 July. It landed on the head of one woman as she read in her garden. Another person suffered a bite on the leg. All the victims needed hospital treatment. The marauder was halted when it bit a building worker restoring a house, who dealt it a fatal blow with a spade.

An expert on squirrels at Camden Council said: "It was demanding food with menaces. We think it was regularly fed by people when it was younger and when the feeding stopped it became aggressive in its efforts to get food from humans." It probably had something wrong with its brain. *Times, Scotsman, 26 July 1997.*

SIMULACRA CORNER



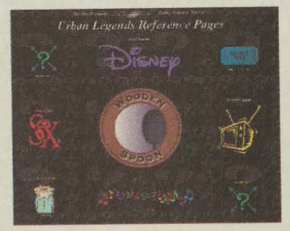
This troll's head was captured on film by Jenny Peers next to Skogafoss, a waterfall in southern Iceland, in June 1997.

We are always glad to receive pictures of spontaneous forms and figures, or any curious images. Send them to the editorial post box (with a stamped addressed envelope or international reply coupon) and we'll pay a fiver or ten dollars for any we use.

catch
medical bag
page 16

WIRED FOR WEIRD

DAVE WALSH braves the tourist season rush of intergalactic visitors to deliver another compendium of cryptozoology, conspiracy and cults. Links to all these pages can be found at *Fortean Times* Online **www.forteantimes.com**



THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY FOLKLORE SOCIETY'S URBAN LEGENDS REFERENCE PAGES

Did German really miss becoming the official language of the USA by one vote? Is radioactive kitty litter being sold to unwitting moggie owners? Was Jack Nicholson's sister really his mother? Find out here.
http://www.snopes.com/

SOURCES

Your Independent Guide to Government, Business and Geopolitical Intelligence six months ahead of mainstream media. Are the KGB still active?
http://www.dso.com/

VIRTUAL INSTITUTE OF CRYPTOZOOLOGY

A French site, thankfully with some English content, with a veritable wealth of material and information, useful to the experienced researcher and novice alike.
http://perso.wanadoo.fr/cryptozoo/welcome.htm

THE FILE CABINET – THE SCIENCE BEHIND *THE X-FILES*

A wonderful educational site which goes behind the scenes to explain scientific references and the "facts behind the fiction" in *The X-Files*. "These pages won't try to convince you that there are or aren't aliens, and they won't take a stand on mythological beasts or government cover-ups."
http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/9815/

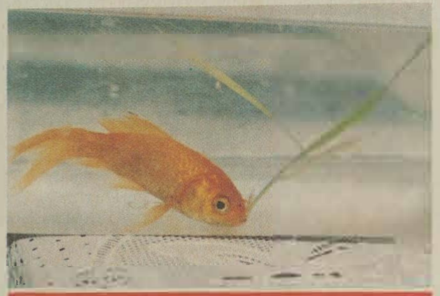
DAVE WALSH is a Dublin-based internet consultant, Fortean researcher and Blatherskite. His weekly Forteanish rant 'Blather' can be experienced at **http://www.nua.ie/blather**

STRANGE TALES FROM IRAN

Compiled by our correspondent in Tehran, Hassan Chadyani

CHILLING OUT: Mohammad Ali Maasoomi is immune to cold

SUPER FISH: The goldfish Seid Ali Saedi found with wheat...



...growing 4in (11cm) out of its gullet The fish lived for a month

HAPPY FAMILY: Mohammed Nickdel with his wives and children

IMMUNE TO HEAT TO COLD

Mohammad Ali Maasoomi, 67, a farmer from Bojnoord, doesn't feel extremes of heat and cold. He sleeps naked in snow every day for two hours. He answered the door to the journalist from the *Hamshahri* newspaper in summer clothes, even though it was 19°F (-7°C). He travelled to Mecca last year and thought nothing of walking and praying in the blazing sun of (122°F) 50°C.

Mr Maasoomi noticed his strange immunity when he was 10. "I can adjust my body temperature," he said. "I inherited the ability from my father and now my son has inherited it from me."

A FARMER FISH

Seid Ali Saedi, a university student in Tebriz, bought 200 goldfish in March 1993. He experimented with their diet, feeding them protein, vitamin C, parsley extract and other things. One fish was particularly tolerant of a varied diet and seemed more alert than the others. Sometimes he put a loudspeaker next to the aquarium and played music to the fish; there was no reaction except with the special fish, which moved back and forth nervously until the music was turned down.

"By December 1996," said Mr Saedi, "only 12 fish had survived. I kept them in a pond in my yard. That winter the water froze to a depth of one centimetre (0.4in). The ice broke and all the fish died, except the special one. It was crawling around the ice, putting snowflakes in its mouth."

On 12 May 1997, he went to change the pond water and noticed a floating object. On further examination he found that a grain of wheat had stuck in the fish's gullet and had begun to sprout. It had three small blades, up to 11cm (4in) long. Mr Saedi had thrown wheat grains in the pond as fish food. Astonishingly, the fish survived another month.

Mr Neishabouri, professor of biology at Tebriz University, examined the fish. "The grain had stuck in the inner part of the fish's gill and sprouted, growing in darkness. The sprout spread its roots into the gills, stifling the fish so that it couldn't open its mouth." Mr Saedi put the fish/plant in formalin and then in cold water. The sprout then continued to grow.

A CURSED WISH

Throughout 13 years of marriage, Fariboorz hoped to have a son and blamed his wife for bearing a daughter. She became pregnant again. During her labour in hospital, Fariboorz threatened her, saying: "If you don't bear a son, I will cut your daughter's hands." The nurses hustled him out and in an hour the baby was born. "Is it a boy or a girl?" Fariboorz asked a nurse anxiously. The reply: "It's a boy sir, but... he has got a deformed hand." Fariboorz began crying and recalled his cruel threat.

FREAK LIME TREE

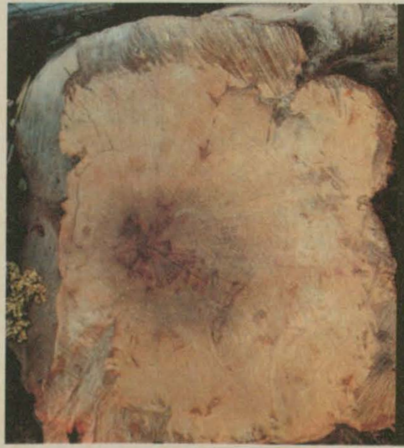
A lime tree in Some-h-sara bears fruit three times a year. A local farmer said that it blooms at the beginning and end of winter as well as in the spring, adding that the fruit yield in winter was double that of other lime trees.

TWELVE WIVES

Mohammed Nickdel is married to 12 women and they have 20 children. He has a clothes shop in the city of Bojnurd and he earns £10 a day. Despite this low income, all 33 members of the family live happily together in one big house. Mr Nickdel believes the secret of his success lies in good humour and tolerance. "I had four more wives," he said, "but they were bad tempered and bitchy, so I divorced them." Four wives are missing from the photograph [above] because they were on holiday – and some of the children were still at school.

SOURCES

"A farmer fish" was investigated by Hassan Ghadyani and appears here in print for the first time. "A cursed wish" and "immune to heat and cold" are translated from April 1997 issues of Hamshahri *newspaper. "Freak lemon tree" appeared in* Gomhori Islami *newspaper, also in April.*



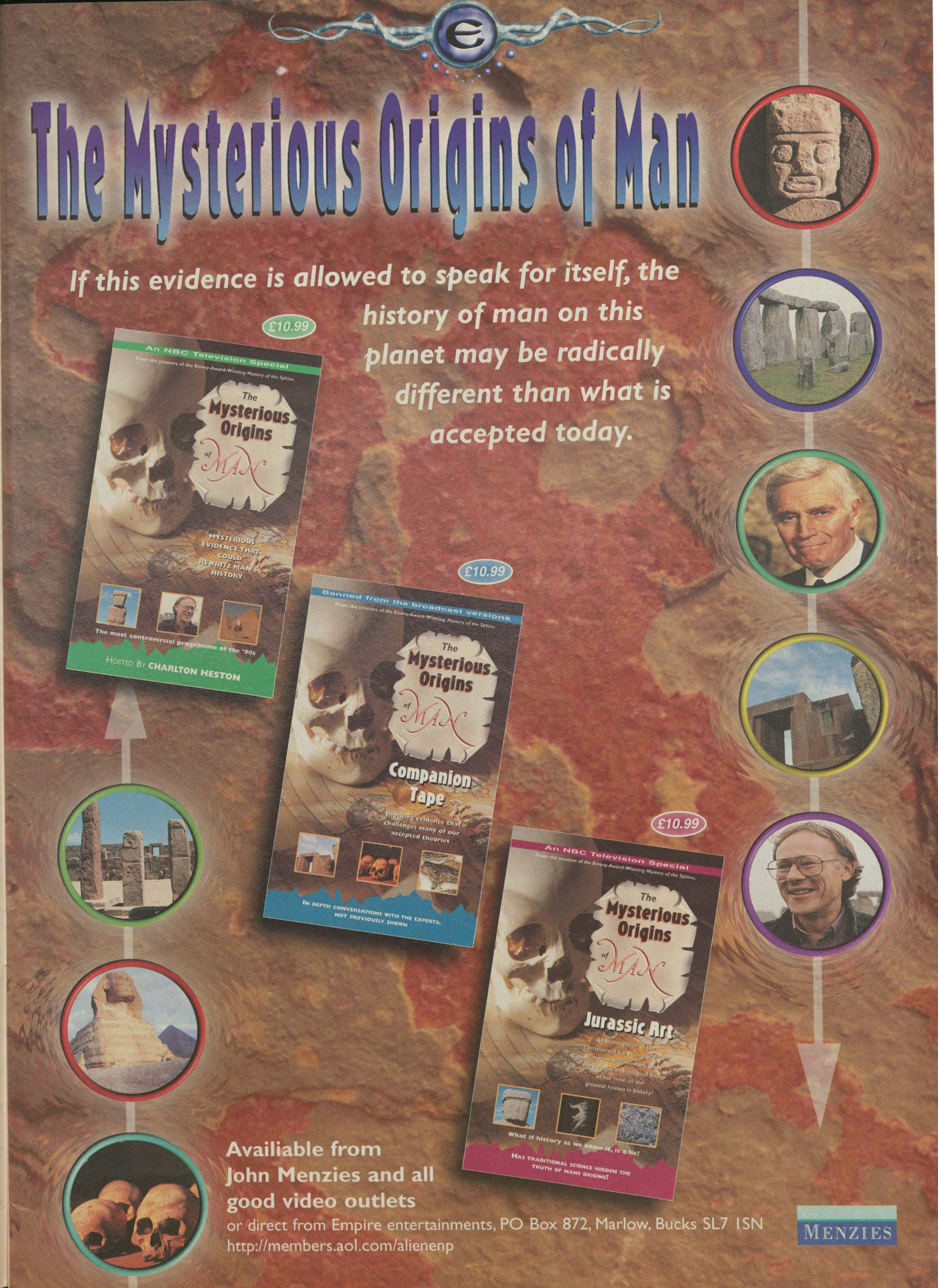
ASSOCIATED PRESS

cross cut

LAST SEPTEMBER, AN old maple tree was cut down outside a church in Vinnitsa, 150 miles (240km) south-west of Kiev in the Ukraine, because it looked like it might fall on the church. The church caretaker, Ilya Gorobchuk, and others saw a dark cross in the centre of the yellowish stump. When the trunk was cut into sections, it was found that the cross ran right through the tree like the pattern in seaside rock.

Soon pilgrims were flocking to the Russian Orthodox church. Ukrainian newspapers in July said that up to two million people have visited the stump, which is now protected by a chapel. Vinnitsa's top church official Bishop Makariy hedging his bets, said that the cross was an omen of either blessings or a disaster. Some claim the tree has curative powers.

"We have a list of 22 people healed by the tree," said Gorobchuk. "One of them was nearly blind and another could hardly walk. Some people come here all the time." The image of the cross has been blackened by repeated rubbing. Believers say they sense a wave of heat pricking their hands. Ukrainian scientists dismiss claims of a miracle; some say that the cross was caused by fungal disease while others suspect the tree grew through an old grave of a clergyman who, according to custom, was buried with a metal cross on his chest, thus staining the wood. The latter sounds pretty miraculous to us. *[AP] 30 July 1997.*



The Mysterious Origins of Man

If this evidence is allowed to speak for itself, the history of man on this planet may be radically different than what is accepted today.

£10.99

An NBC Television Special
From the creators of the Emmy-Award-Winning Mystery of the Sphinx.
The Mysterious Origins of MAN
MYSTERIOUS EVIDENCE THAT COULD REWRITE MAN'S HISTORY
The most controversial programme of the '90s
HOSTED BY CHARLTON HESTON

£10.99

Banned from the broadcast versions
From the creators of the Emmy-Award-Winning Mystery of the Sphinx.
The Mysterious Origins of MAN
Companion Tape
Shocking evidence that challenges many of our accepted theories
IN DEPTH CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EXPERTS. NOT PREVIOUSLY SHOWN

£10.99

An NBC Television Special
From the creators of the Emmy-Award-Winning Mystery of the Sphinx.
The Mysterious Origins of MAN
Jurassic Art
An investigation of the controversial Ica Stones and the Acambaro Figurines: are these the greatest archeological finds of our time, or the greatest hoaxes in history?
What if history as we know it, is a lie?
HAS TRADITIONAL SCIENCE HIDDEN THE TRUTH OF MANS ORIGINS?

Availiable from
John Menzies and all
good video outlets
or direct from Empire entertainments, PO Box 872, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1SN
http://members.aol.com/alienenp

John MENZIES

ALIEN ZOO

KARL SHUKER
with the latest from planet cryptozoology

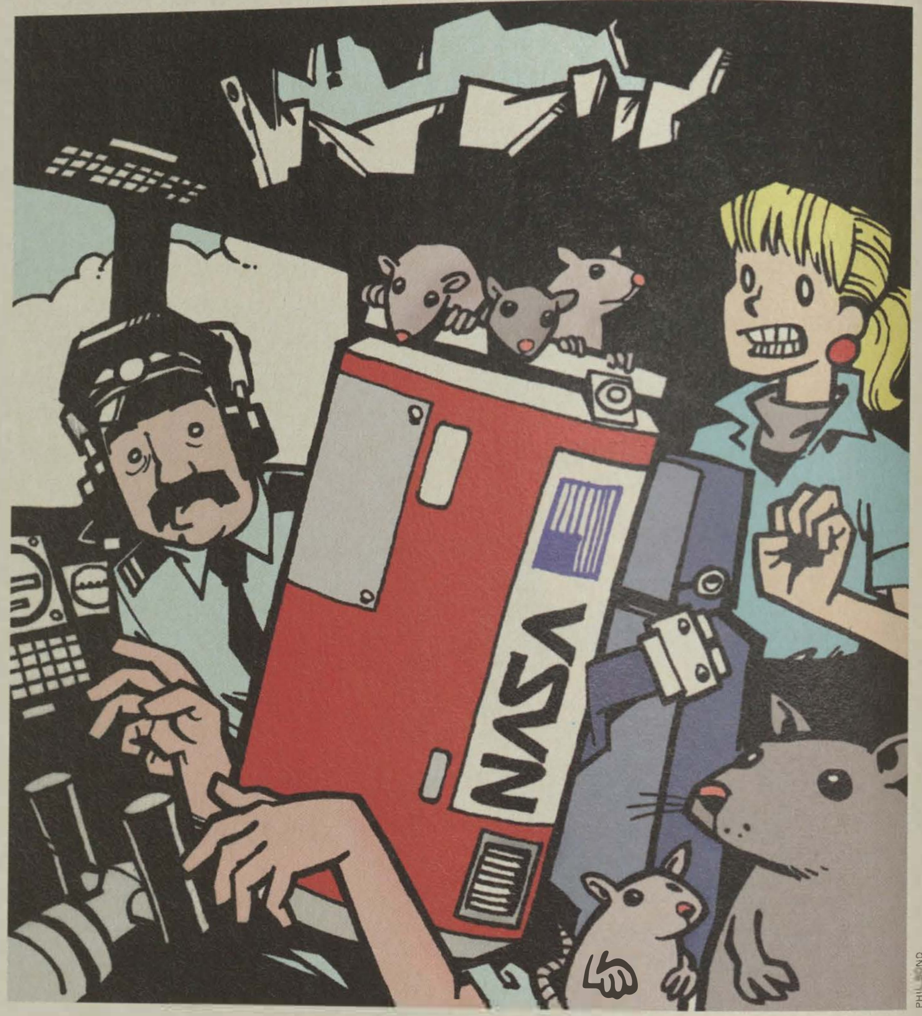
MONKEYS, MONKEYS EVERYWHERE...

What is claimed to be yet another new species of monkey has been discovered in the Amazonian rainforests of Brazil. Said to be no larger than a mouse, it has been dubbed the black-capped dwarf marmoset. After being captured in the middle reaches of the Madeira river by a local backwoodsman, it was taken to Dutch biologist Dr Marc Van Roosmalen, from the National Institute for Amazon Research in Manaus, who believes that this tiny primate might be the missing link between the dwarf marmosets (genus Cebuella) and the larger, true marmosets (genus Callithrix). Distinguished from other species by its black crown, white facial border and black unringed tail, it also has a distinctive squeaking voice, resembling the chirruping of a grasshopper. *Guardian 11 Aug 1997.*

TINY: Black-capped dwarf marmoset

BEAST OF GÉVAUDEN UNMASKED AT LAST?

During the early 1760s, a rapacious carnivorous beast of undiscovered identity was blamed for the serial killing of a number of people, particularly children, in a village-speckled district of Lozère, south-eastern France, called Gévauden [FT14:8]. A creature claimed to be this elusive Beast of Gévauden was shot dead by local hunter Jean Chastel at Mount Chauvet, after which the killings ceased. Tragically, however, its corpse was supposedly lost and its identity has thus remained a mystery... until now. In summer 1997, taxidermist Franz Julien from France's National Museum of Natural History in Paris, sensationally revealed that the Beast had actually been preserved as a stuffed specimen in the museum until 1819, and during that



PHIL BOND

trouble with planes

FLIGHT 800 RAT TRAP

What we at *FT* hope will be the last theory to be advanced about the cause of the explosion of TWA flight 800 has emerged. According to reports which appeared in July, accident investigators were examining the possibility that the plane was downed by a canister full of rats, travelling towards Earth at 800mph (1,280km/h).

The canister was launched in a cannister in 1996 from the space shuttle *Columbia*; scientists intended to examine the rats to gain data on how space flight affects bone marrow. When the capsule returned to Earth's atmosphere, it blasted open to release the canister, which was fitted with a parachute. A USAF cargo plane trailing a giant net was dispatched to catch it at 30,000ft (9,000m); however, the canister's parachute failed to open, allegedly putting the speeding rodents on a collision course with the doomed airliner.

This could explain the photographs taken by Linda Kabot, which appeared to show a cylindrical object heading for the plane, and which was cited by many conspiratorially-minded commentators as evidence that the explosion was caused by a US missile. A "senior" source – unnamed, of course – close to the investigation was quoted as saying that the incident was being hushed up because of the embarrassment it would cause: "No-one has admitted to losing this canister because it would anger the animal rights lobby. But if the aircraft was brought down by this canister, the truth should be told." *Express on Sunday, 13 Jul; D. Star, 14 Jul 1997.*

WOBBLING THROUGH MIAMI

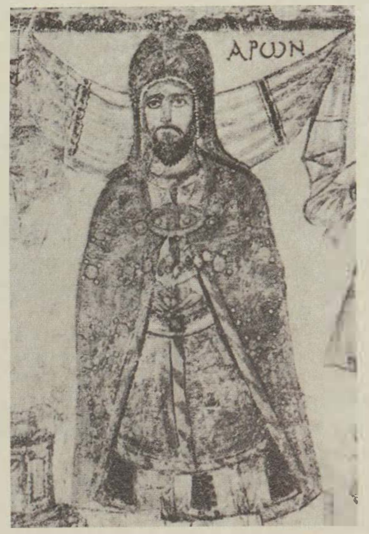
A Boeing 707 cargo jet took off from Miami airport on 24 July, but rapidly slipped from an altitude of 1,000ft (300m). As it flew down Biscayne Boulevard in downtown Miami, it was less than 100ft (30m) above the ground, perhaps as low as 60ft (18m). Calamity seemed inevitable, but there was no crash, no damage, no loss of life. The plane was registered in Canada and was being operated by Jet Aviation Components. The pilot told air traffic control that there was a problem with the yaw damper, which prevents wobbling from side to side. This was somehow corrected.

Adam Leichtling, a lawyer, looked down at the plane and its trail of black smoke from the 46th floor of the First Union building. "I was wondering not when it was going to crash, but where," he said. "It wasn't going fast enough, it was flying too low and the wings were going up and down."

The plane just missed the Hard Rock Café's big electric guitar sign and passed over the Port of Miami, navigating between the twin six-storey Royal Caribbean International buildings. In a few seconds the plane was out of sight, regaining altitude and went on its way to New York and Gander, Newfoundland. *Washington Post, 25 July 1997.*

keep yer Aaron

DNA ANALYSIS HAS lent weight to Jewish tradition by showing that the Jewish priesthood might, indeed, share a common ancestor. The priesthood can only be passed on from father to son and is traced back to Aaron, the brother of Moses. Because of its patrilineal transmission, many priests are called Cohen or Kohen.



GUARDIAN

Now an international research team, with members from England, Canada, Israel and the US, has demonstrated through analysis of the Y chromosomes of Jewish men from priestly families that there is indeed a close degree of kinship between priests. Dr Michael Hammer, a geneticist at the University of Arizona at Tucson, explained: "I think anyone who knows the biblical story of Aaron and the tradition of the priesthood going from father to son, and is aware that the Y chromosome is inherited in the same way, would think of this question."

Uniquely, the Y chromosome does not swap sections of DNA with other chromosomes. Any change which occurs tends to persist in a lineage over time, which can allow the genetic tracing of a male line through several centuries.

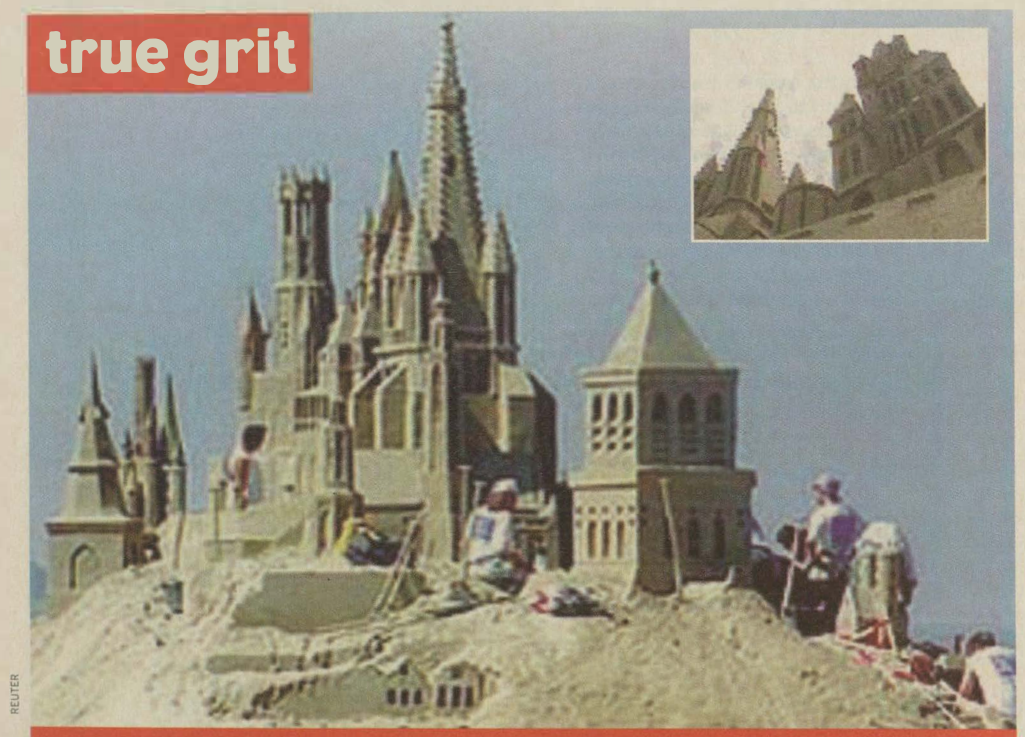
For a report published in 1995, the researchers obtained genetic material from 188 Jewish men from Israel, the US and England, and studied two sites or 'markers' to see whether there was any difference in the DNA between those who claimed priestly lineage and laymen.

They discovered that only 1.5 per cent of priests, as opposed to 18.4 per cent of laymen, had the first marker. The other marker, which was able to occur in one of five ways, appeared more consistently in one particular form in the priests.

"The simplest, most straightforward explanation is that these men have the Y chromosome of Aaron," explained co-author Dr Karl Skorecki, who conducts genetic research at Haifa's Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. "The study suggests that a 3,000-year-old tradition is correct, or has a biological counterpart." The study also showed that the priesthood was well established before the world Jewish population split into Ashkenazim and Sephardim, around 1,000 years ago.

Concerns about the report were voiced by, of all people, Rabbi Aaron Pankin of the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in Manhattan. "There is a lot of danger in this. It could become a tool for fundamentalists to try to weed out who is not a Cohen, and that would be troublesome." He also raised the possibility that fundamentalists might insist on genetic tests before allowing Jewish men to marry divorced women; priests are forbidden to do so. *Boston (MA) Globe, Guardian 2 Jan; NY Times, Times of Malta, 7 Jan 1997.*

true grit



REUTER

MORE THAN 50 people, mostly art, architecture and engineering students, have helped build this sand sculpture, made from 10,000 tons of sand imported from Holland, on the beach at Zeebrugge in Belgium. They had to douse the sculpture with water provided by the town's fire service to prevent it crumbling.

Depicting the mediæval skyline of Bruges, it stood about 42ft (just under 13m) high, not the tallest ever built in Europe, but in overall size thought to be the largest. It was 165ft (50m) long and 123ft (37m) wide and was completed on 8 August. The plan was for it to be open to the public for a month. *[R] 12 Aug 1997.*

ALIEN ZOO
CONTINUED

time it was examined and conclusively identified – as a striped hyena. As this species *Hyaena hyaena*, is not native to Europe, it was evidently an escapee or deliberate release from captivity – and it is nothing if not an interesting coincidence that hunter Chastel's own son, Antoine, actually possessed a striped hyena in his personal menagerie. *Michel Raynal/Institut Virtuel de Cryptozoologie, August 1997, http://perso.wanadoo.fr/cryptozool/*

HAS MANIPOGO BEEN MONSTER-NAPPED?

Just as Canada's Lake Okanagan has a serpentine water monster, called Ogopogo, so too does Lake Manitoba – or at least it used to. According to a newspaper report, this 45ft (14m)-long horse-headed mystery beast, known as Manipogo, may have been recently shot, secretly spirited away under cover of darkness, and sold for the truly monstrous sum of $200,000.

The Mounties have allegedly investigated this story, but all to no avail, and the RCMP detachment on the Sandy Bay Indian Reserve, north of Portage La Prairie, has been deluged with enquiries. Yet no tangible evidence to confirm or deny the rumours has so far come to light. In any event, even if they are true, there has to be rather more than one specimen of this species in Lake Manitoba (and preferably a decent-sized population) for it to be viable here. *Toronto Globe and Mail, 12 July 1997.*

IN THE SHADOW OF THE NIGHTGROWLER

According to inhabitants of Goldsborough Valley, south of Cairns, Queensland, this region is currently being prowled by a mysterious, exclusively nocturnal creature whose mere presence in the vicinity is enough to terrify the local dogs, and which earns its name from its deep, ferocious growls. People who have heard these are convinced that they are not of canine origin, thereby ruling out dogs and dingoes, but unquestionably feline, reminding them of a tiger's sounds.

Speculation is rife that the elusive nightgrowler may be one and the same as the mystifying yarri or Queensland tiger, which is banded with black and white stripes, has a feline head and tusk-like teeth, and is believed by some cryptozoologists to be a surviving member of the officially extinct lineage of thylacoleonids or marsupial lions. A large team of investigators, including local naturalists and a ranger, and led by Pat Shepherd, is keen to capture a nightgrowler, in the hope of finally unmasking its cryptic identity. *Queensland Sunday Mail, 12 November 1995.*

MEDICAL BAG

We prescribe a dose of mystery from our cabinet of Hippocratic oddities

MAN CLEARS HIS HEAD

For four weeks after a brain tumour operation in June, retired teacher Goran Rudolfsson sneezed his way round the town of Hoverberg on Sweden's west coast with sinuses blocked and head buzzing. On 11 July he felt something move inside his nostril and spent half an hour pulling out a swab from inside his head. It was 31in (79cm) long and 1in (2.5cm) wide.

"Fortunately, no harm seems to have been done," said a spokeswoman for Umeaa University Hospital, where the operation had been performed. "We have apologised to Mr Rudolfsson and thanked him for returning the swab to us. He had washed and ironed it."

Other objects recently discovered inside patients after surgery include a 4in (10cm)-long plastic tube abandoned in the stomach of an Indian man, J Mehra, for 25 years; and a 2.8in (7cm) gauze swab left inside the stomach of Italian mother Giuditta Consonni, 55, after she had her first child by Cæsarean section 25 years ago.

A Colombian man who reported abdominal pains discovered that he had been living with a pair of surgical forceps in his stomach for 47 years. Silvio Jimenez was a 20-year-old army conscript back in 1950 when he was stabbed at a party and rushed to the Valledupar regional hospital, 546 miles (878km) north of Bogota. The doctor who operated on him at that time left one of his tools inside his patient, said Rafael Zabaleta, the Valledupar doctor who removed the forceps. *Guardian, 16 July; South China Morning Post, 19 Mar; Independent, 13 June; [R] 31 May 1997.*

HOW WAS IT FOR ME?

A man who has suffered total memory loss while he makes love is puzzling neurologists. The 64-year-old engineer would repeatedly ask his wife "What are we doing?", "What time of year is it?" and "What time of day is it?" The coital amnesia lasts 30–60 minutes followed by complete recovery, although he cannot remember having had intercourse and has only a very sketchy memory of any foreplay. At no time was he unable to recognise his wife, although other sufferers from the condition have forgotten their lovers' names in the heat of passion.

Dr Russell Lane of the Neurosciences Centre at Charing Cross, west London, outlining the case in the medical journal *Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry*, said that sudden bouts of amnesia during periods of physical and emotional stress, including sex, were not uncommon. The condition is known as transient global amnesia, or TGA, and can be triggered variously by a shortage of blood in the brain, a blood clot in the brain, a form of epilepsy or migraine.

The man in question, from Surrey, was perfectly normal except for an irregular brain signal attributed to migraine, from which he had suffered for years. His loss of memory did not occur every time he had intercourse, but had happened five times in the past 18 years. Dr Lane added that the condition raised interesting medico-legal questions, and asked: "Would it be a defence for someone accused of rape to be able to claim that he suffered from TGA and knew nothing about the alleged attack?" *D.Telegraph, D.Mail, Independent, NY Post, 5 Aug 1997.*

MAN WITH A WOMB

Doctors in the northern Indian city of Meerut have found a uterus and ovaries while operating on Mohammed Zafrul, 35, to remove a tumour in his stomach. The *Hindustan Times* quoted hospital gynæcologist Dr Vinita Agarwal as saying that the uterus was fully developed and could sustain pregnancy. Mr Zafrul, although married for 10 years, had no children because of a testicular tumour. The uterus and ovaries were removed for biopsy. *South China Morning Post, 1 Aug 1997.*

A SHOCKING CURE

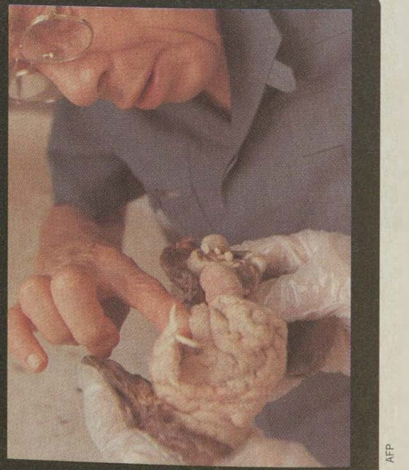
Darren Garside, 15, touched a mains electricity cable while rescuing four-year-old Jay Nother from a hole dug by workmen. He was thrown 9ft (2.7m) through the air and suffered severe burns to his face, left arm and back; his life was saved by the thick rubber soles on his trainers. After being released from Salisbury District Hospital, he found that his acne was cured. "I used to have spots all over my face," he said. "Now the skin has peeled off and they've gone." *Edinburgh Eve. News, Examiner (Cork), 31 July 1997.*

ANTHRAX FIND

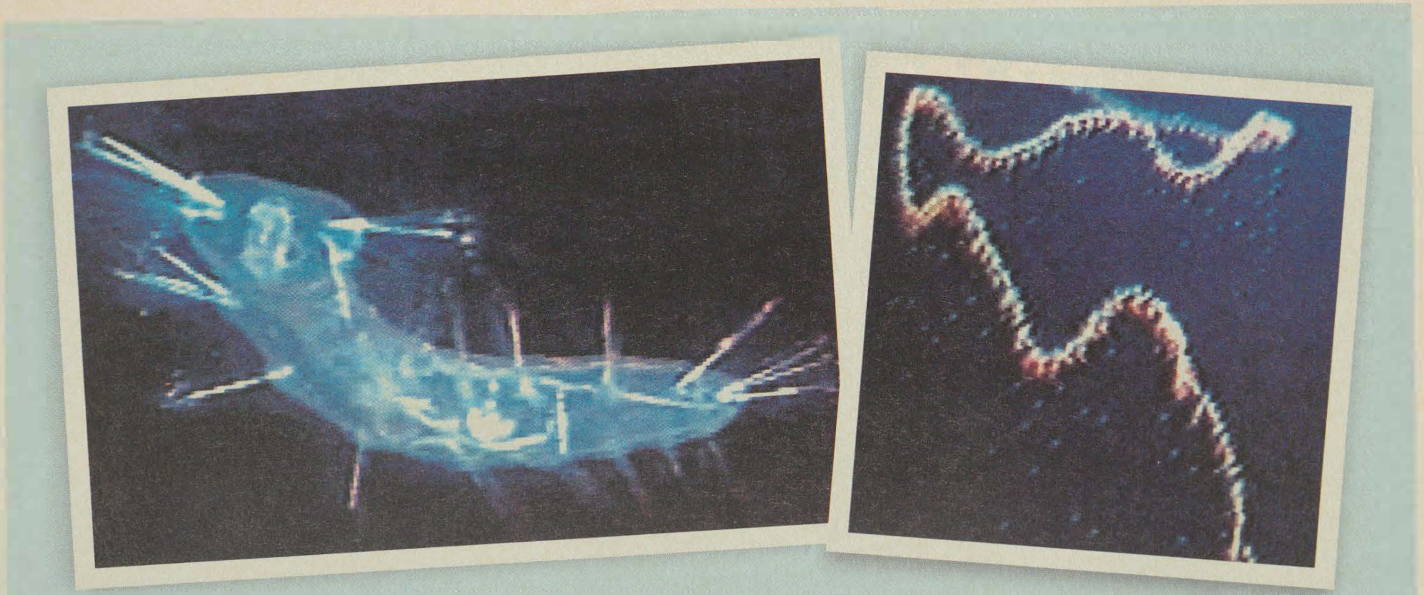
A small glass capsule containing anthrax bacilli was discovered in April at the Norwegian Police Museum in Trondheim during a routine clean-up. Accompanying documents said that it was confiscated from Baron Otto Karl von Rosen in the northern Norwegian village of Karasjok in January 1917. Karasjok is a centre for reindeer. Germany, worried that British troops would use reindeer to transport weapons to Russia across northern Europe's tundra, allegedly authorised spreading anthrax in hope of killing the reindeer. The bacilli were still active. "This find, as far as we know, is a new record for survival," said Bjorn Berdal of the Norwegian military microbiological laboratory in Oslo. *[AP] 1 July 1997.*

UNBORN TWIN IN BODY

An Egyptian teenager who complained of stomach pains had his parasitic twin fœtus (*fœtus in fœtu*) lodged in a sac pressing against his kidneys. Doctors in Cairo found the 7in (18cm)-long fœtus weighing 4.4lb (2kg), with a head, arm, tongue and fully formed teeth when they operated on building worker Hisham Ragab, 16. The size of the internal twin suggested that it had survived to 32 or 33 weeks gestation. Incomplete ovum division is not uncommon, but this was the most developed such fœtus ever found in Egypt. Hisham was reported to be well and recovering from his operation. *Guardian, Independent, Times, 3 July 1997.*



AFP

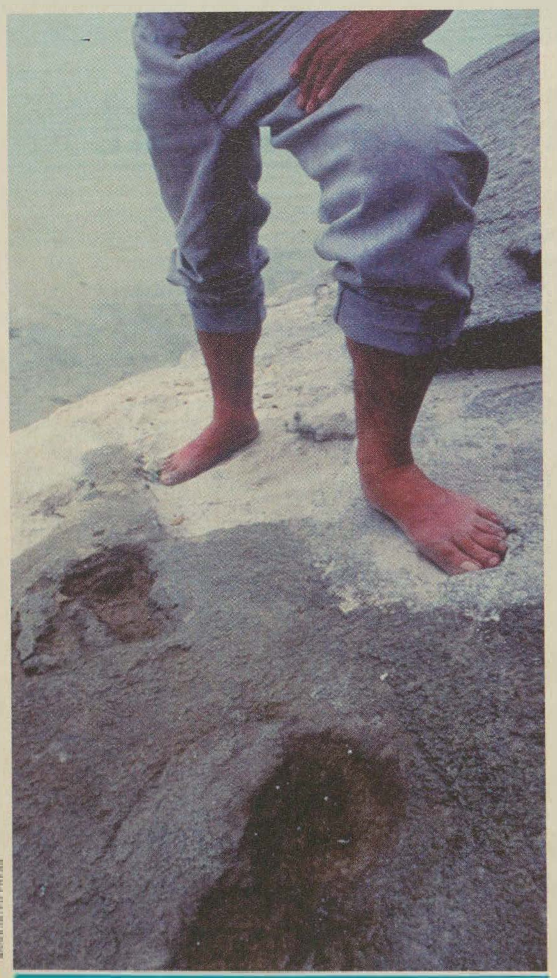


BOTH PHOTOS: ASSOCIATED PRESS

marvels of the deep

THIS POLYCHÆTE, [above left] a transparent, worm-like creature the size of a cigarette butt which moves along by flapping bristles that look like fibre-optic cables, was photographed 4 miles (6.4km) down in the Pacific. It seems to be related to the sandworms fishermen use as bait.

The physonect siphonophore [right], a kind of jellyfish 16ft (5m) long, was photographed at a depth of 2,600-3,000ft (800-900m) in Sagami Bay, off Kanagawa Prefecture, west of Tokyo, on 28 June. The pictures were taken by a remote-controlled submarine called Dolphin 3K. *[AP] 25 July 1997.*

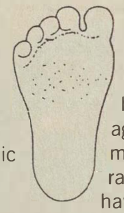


ASSOCIATED PRESS

FOOTHOLD: The rock imprints found in South Africa [above] and diagrams of a Neanderthal foot [right top] and a Sapiens foot [right below]

forefathers' footprints

THE OLDEST-KNOWN FOOTPRINTS made by an anatomically modern human have been found in what is now the rocky shore of Langebaan Lagoon, about 60 miles (97km) north of Cape Town in South Africa. The three prints are claimed to be 117,000 years old, based on the surrounding sediments and fluctuations in sea level in the area. The discovery was announced by Lee Berger, an American palæoanthropologist at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, at a National Geographic Society meeting in Washington on 14 August. Earlier footprints have been found in Laetoli, Tanzania, (said to be 3.6 million years old) and at the Koobi Fora site in Kenya (1.5 million years old), but these were made by pre-Sapiens hominids.

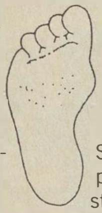


The Langebaan prints were discovered by Dr David Roberts, a British-born geologist, acting on a hunch. He had already found nearby fossilised tracks of carnivores and rock fragments that had been worked by hominids. The discovery team assert that the footprints were made by a small person, probably female, trudging alone down a steep, chalky dune after a rainstorm. Within a few hours the dune dried out and coastal wind filled the footprints with sand. They were then buried and gradually turned to stone. The footprints are 8.5in (22cm) long. The big toe, ball, arch and heel are all clearly shown. Giving full rein to their imagination, the scientists say the prints were made by a person about 5ft 3in (1.6m) tall, with jutting jaw and high forehead, but without the protruding brow ridges of earlier man. We half expect them to tell us her name.

After finding the footprints, Dr Roberts uncovered stone tools – including blades, scrapers, a projectile point and a core from which flakes were struck. Other exploration in the region yielded bits of ochre pigment, suggesting that the person who left the prints might have painted his/her body.

The prints have been siezed upon by the proponents of a "genetic Eve", a hypothetical figure who lived in Africa between 100,000 and 300,000 years ago and who carried the DNA potential of modern women. Scientists measuring the range of DNA in different populations today have concluded that we are all descended from one common female ancestor.

The Langebaan Lagoon lies within the West Coast National Park, and rangers have arranged round-the-clock security for the footprints. "We have to guard against those who feel the urge to desecrate finds of this nature," said a parks spokesman, "and the even more fanatic types who might try to chip them out of the rock as souvenirs" – as happened with the stegosaurus footprints in Australia (see FT95:21). *Times, Independent, Int. Herald Tribune, 15 Aug; D.Telegraph, 16 Aug 1997.*



Stan Gooch, psychologist and author, has pointed out to *Fortean Times* that the man standing in the photograph [left] has the short big toe of Neanderthal man. "It would seem that God himself has intervened to expose the absolute travesty of current views on the origin of man," he writes. "How is it that experts who can see an entire catalogue of wonders in an extremely fuzzy footprint cannot see an almost perfect Neanderthal foot on a living human being?"

worms on ice

DEEP FREEZE: Eyeless tube worms thrive in a hostile environment devid of light at the bottomn of the Gulf of Mexico

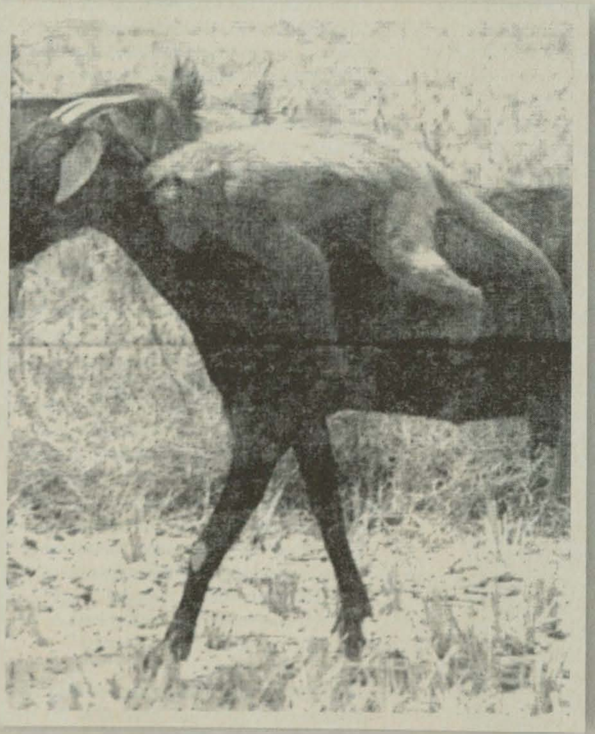
LAST JULY, AMERICAN scientists discovered a new species of eyeless tube worm living on "frozen" methane gas 1,800ft (550m) down at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico. It was thriving in a frigid, hostile environment with no light, little oxygen and a concentrated presence of sulphides, gas and concentrated brine. Charles Fisher of Pennsylvania State University found the worms living in dense colonies on a 6ft (1.8m) mound of solid methane, while using a small submersible 150 miles (240km) off the coast of Louisiana. "The surface of the ice was etched with dimples," he said. "It looked like the outside of a beehive, with a worm in each dimple. These worms are the major players in a new and unique eco-system."

The worms are polychætes, or bristle worms, and appear to be a new species belonging (like lugworms) to a group called the hesionids. Methane ice is a gas hydrate, a dense crystalline structure made of water, methane and other hydrocarbons. It forms a solid only at high pressure and low temperature. The Gulf of Mexico is one of the few places were such gas hydrates sometimes burst through the sediment to form mushroom-like ice mounds. Thousands of billions of tons of methane ice are estimated to exist beneath the ocean floors. Methane ice was also found on two planetary moons by Voyager spacecraft in the 1970s – Triton, Neptune's largest, and Titan, Saturn's largest.

The worms, which are 1–2in (2.5–5cm) long, look like typical polychætes, with a row of bristly "feet" along each side. Their bodies are flat and pinkish and their bristles white. Like other tube worms that live around hydrothermal vents, they probably acquire their energy through a bacterial intermediary. It is not known whether the worms are opportunists that colonise the ice when it emerges through the sediment, or whether they live on hydrates beneath the surface. The first worms were found on ice that had only just merged from the mud and they were adults, which suggests they were well established before the ice erupted.

The find shows that wherever there is a niche, however improbable, there is likely to be something living in it. **http:\\www.bio.psu.edu\fisher\main\html**

San Francisco Chronicle, 30 July; Houston Chronicle, 1 Aug; Times, 4 Aug; New Scientist, 9 Aug; Guardian, 12 Aug 1997.



Raami rides about

When Raami the Rhesus monkey lost his mother, villagers in Manali Pudur, India, selected a goat to suckle the orphaned primate. Some years later, as the phot above shows, Raami is still a burden on his good-natured nanny. *[R] 8 May 1997.*

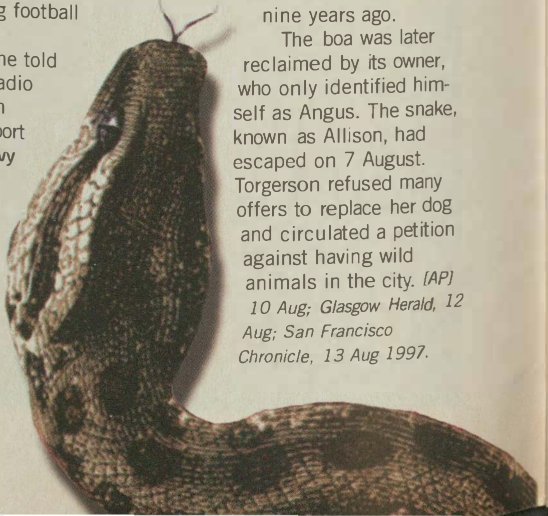
boa! boa! boa!

ACCORDING TO THE villagers of Nuevo Tacna in the Peruvian jungle on 19 August, a boa constrictor the size of two passenger buses, 130ft (40m) long and 15ft (4.6m) in diameter – putting anything claimed by Colonel Percy Fawcett in the shade – crashed through the jungle undergrowth, felling trees and forging a ditch wide enough to drive a tractor through. "There were five witnesses present and the rest of the 300 villagers felt the effect of this thing as it dragged itself along and dived into the river Napo," insisted Jorge Chavez, mayor of Mainas, 170 miles northeast of Lima. "Something strange has taken place, there really is something to the villagers' stories." Luis Iluma saw it while playing football in the village.

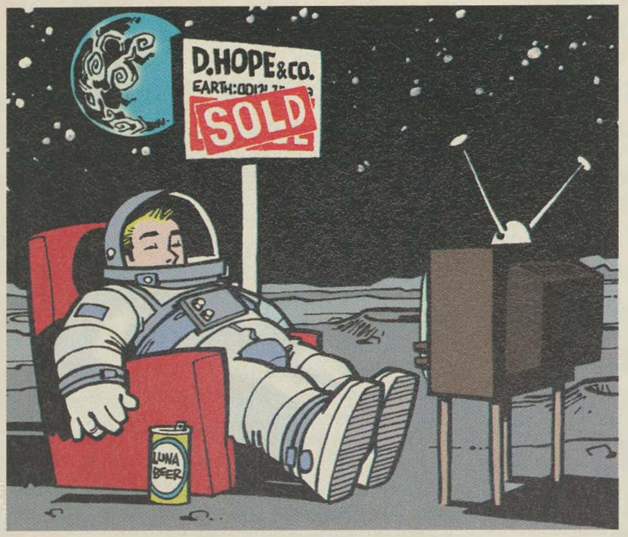
"It was black, very black," he told everyone. Peru's two national radio stations reported the story with mirth, suggesting that the report was a misidentification of heavy construction machinery, but un-named local authorities said the dense tropical forest did not allow access to such large equipment. Amazonian water snakes made *Anaconda* the best grossing movie across the USA last April. *[R] 20 Aug 1997.*

A LONG-HAIRED, 2LB (1kg) Chihuahua called Babette went out through the pet flap of her home in the West Hills area of California's San Fernando Valley on 9 August and encountered a 7ft (2m) boa constrictor which proceeded to eat her. "I think I'll hear her scream for as long as I live," said her owner, Flossie Torgerson, 74. "She was my life. She was so beautiful and sweet." As an animal control officer took the snake away, a tearful Mrs Torgerson had only photographs, a chewed up slipper, a squeezable rubber whale and a few balls to remind her of the pet that had been her constant companion since her husband died nine years ago.

The boa was later reclaimed by its owner, who only identified himself as Angus. The snake, known as Allison, had escaped on 7 August. Torgerson refused many offers to replace her dog and circulated a petition against having wild animals in the city. *[AP] 10 Aug; Glasgow Herald, 12 Aug; San Francisco Chronicle, 13 Aug 1997.*



the man who sold the moon



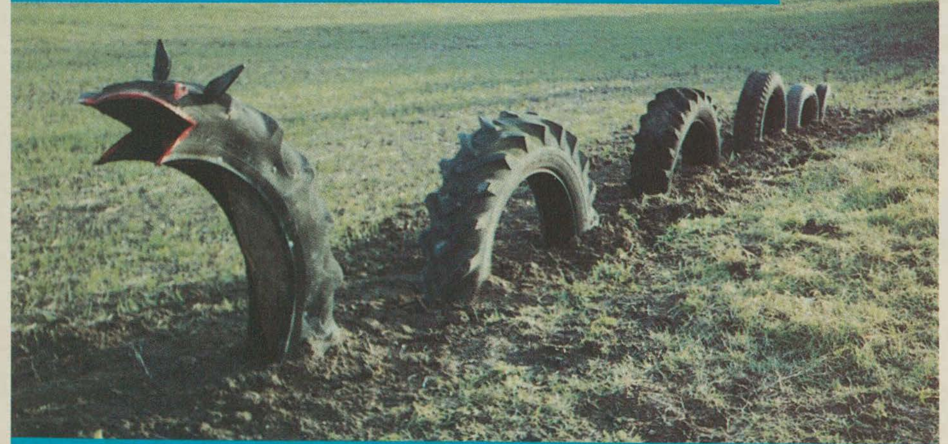
FOLLOWING ON FROM last month's report ***[FT103:7]*** that three Yemeni men were suing NASA for trespassing on Mars, we have received news of a rival claim on Mars, and indeed the rest of the solar system. Dennis Hope, of Rio Vista, California, has proclaimed himself Master of the Solar System, a title which he says gives him claim to every planet, satellite and asteroid in our solar system, with the obvious exception of Earth. He staked his claim in letters to the UN, the White House and the Kremlin, and takes their silence to be a sign of acquiescence. And since he owns it all, he has now begun to sell it.

Hope claims to make some $4,000 (£2,530) a month from selling off plots of land on the Moon, which he says is "the least expensive real estate in the universe" at $15.99 (£10) plus tax and shipping for 1,777 acres of prime lunar property. His three-person salesforce style themselves Lunar Ambassadors, and his head office is described as the Lunar Embassy. Hope is pragmatic about the legitimacy of what he is doing; "Whenever someone hears of this," he says, "their first response is 'You can't do that.' Well, we've sold over 10,000 parcels of land, so evidently, I can."

There is apparently no legal bar to Hope claiming the entire solar system as his fiefdom. The International Outer Space Treaty of 1967 disallows nations from claiming the Moon or planets as their own, but does not apply to individuals. Moreover, the US never officially ratified a subsequent treaty which sought to ban private property on the moon. However, it does violate the US common law principle that one can claim a property only after establishing a presence on it and effecting some form of improvement to it.

As with the so-called "star registries" which purport to name stars for loved ones, nobody seems willing to recognise the new owners; NASA categorically stated: "We're not going to start calling [Mars] Joe's World." This hasn't stopped one of Rio Vista's other residents from buying up $42,500 (£27,000)-worth of land and declaring it the State of Lunafornia, complete with State Legislature. Can it be long before Lunafornia secedes, leading to a Lunar Civil War? We hope not. *Houston Chronicle, 27 Jun 1997.*

we'll never tyre of Nessie


This four-humped 'monster' appeared overnight near North Brook End Road in Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire. Farmer Lew Hitch, 71, in whose paddock the monster appeared, was happy for it to stay until harvest. *Cambridge Eve. News, 14 Feb 1997.*

EXTRA EXTRA

HEADLINES FROM NEWSPAPERS AROUND THE WORLD

PILOT VOWS TO QUIT FLYING AFTER LANDING ON HIS WIFE

Daily Express, 16 July 1996.

PUSAT ISLAM: ALIENS AMONG SHI'ITE LEADERS

The Star (Malaysia), 26 July 1996.

SPIDERS SIGNED UP FOR ARMY

Morning Star, 22 July 1996.

'ONLY JAIL WILL STOP ME', SAYS ILLEGAL FALSE TEETH FITTER

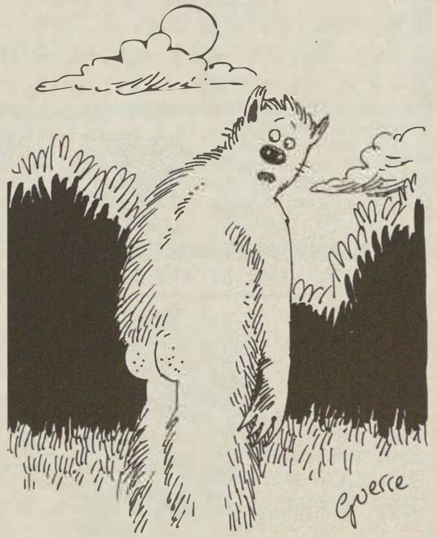
Reading Evening Post, 31 July 1996.

CHURCH GOES MISSING

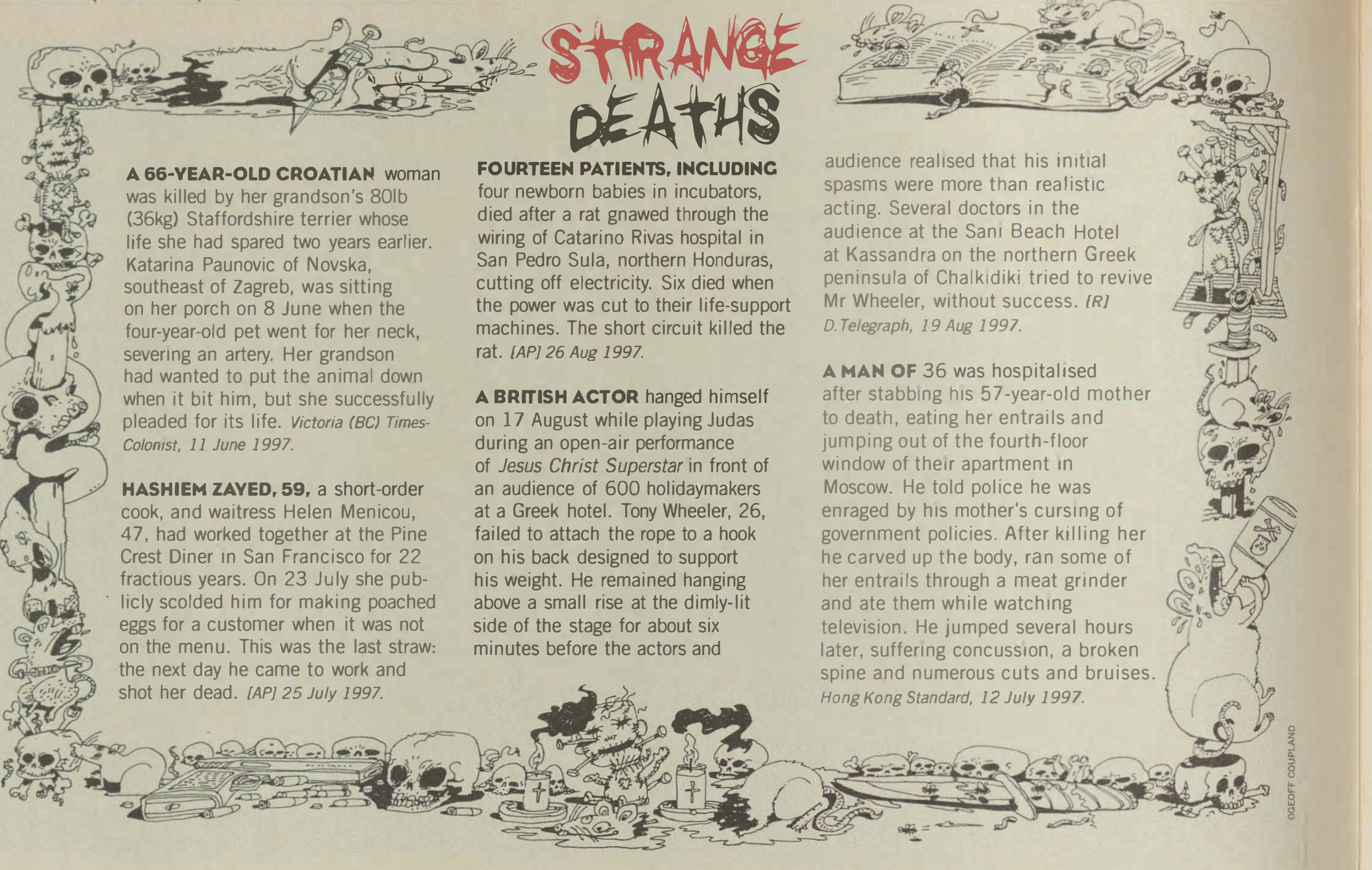
West Cumbria News & Star, 31 July 1996.

VIRGINS ARE DISCOVERED IN ESSEX

Independent, 10 Aug 1996.



PREMATURE BALDING IN WEREWOLVES



STRANGE DEATHS

A 66-YEAR-OLD CROATIAN woman was killed by her grandson's 80lb (36kg) Staffordshire terrier whose life she had spared two years earlier. Katarina Paunovic of Novska, southeast of Zagreb, was sitting on her porch on 8 June when the four-year-old pet went for her neck, severing an artery. Her grandson had wanted to put the animal down when it bit him, but she successfully pleaded for its life. *Victoria (BC) Times-Colonist, 11 June 1997.*

HASHIEM ZAYED, 59, a short-order cook, and waitress Helen Menicou, 47, had worked together at the Pine Crest Diner in San Francisco for 22 fractious years. On 23 July she publicly scolded him for making poached eggs for a customer when it was not on the menu. This was the last straw: the next day he came to work and shot her dead. *[AP] 25 July 1997.*

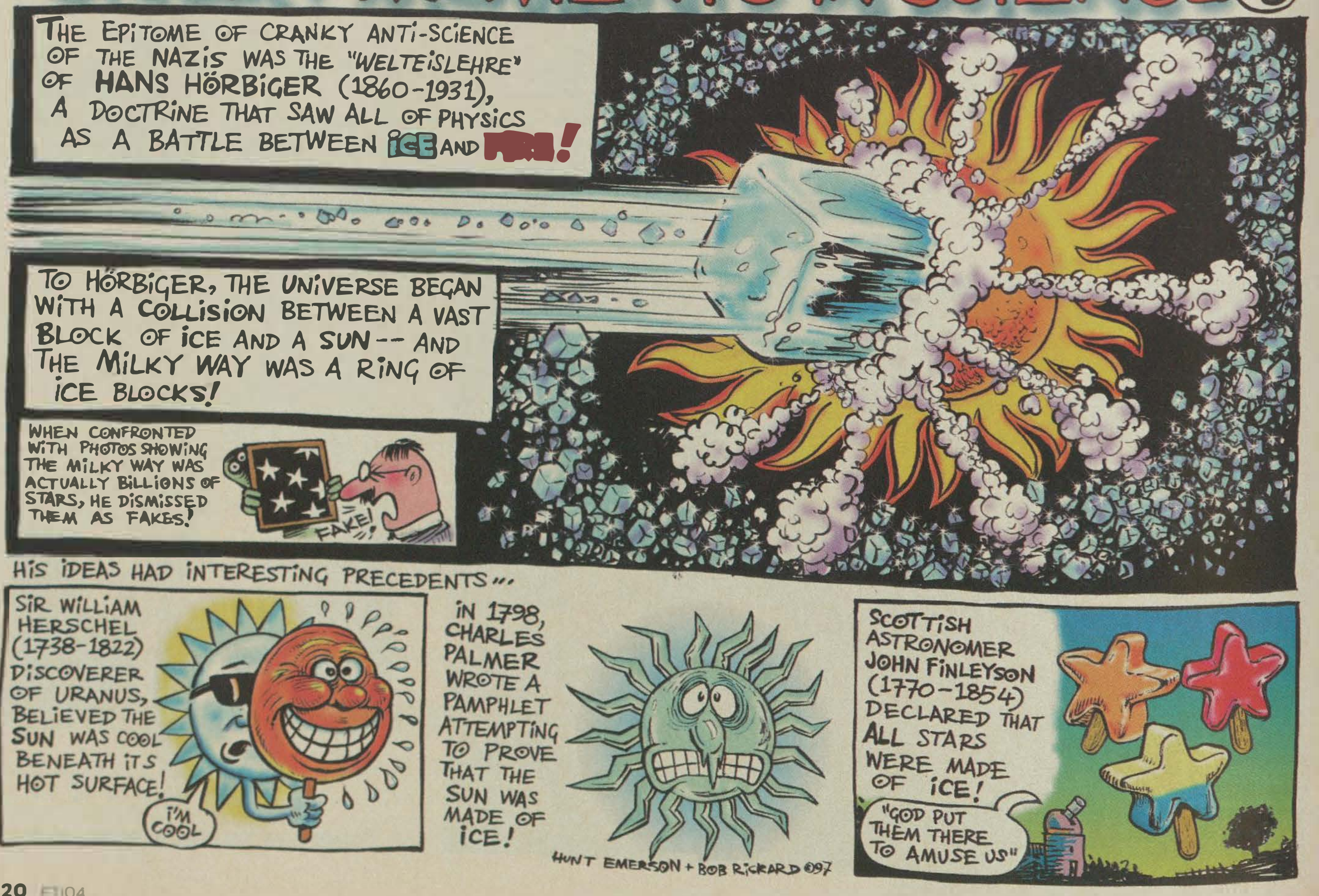
FOURTEEN PATIENTS, INCLUDING four newborn babies in incubators, died after a rat gnawed through the wiring of Catarino Rivas hospital in San Pedro Sula, northern Honduras, cutting off electricity. Six died when the power was cut to their life-support machines. The short circuit killed the rat. *[AP] 26 Aug 1997.*

A BRITISH ACTOR hanged himself on 17 August while playing Judas during an open-air performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in front of an audience of 600 holidaymakers at a Greek hotel. Tony Wheeler, 26, failed to attach the rope to a hook on his back designed to support his weight. He remained hanging above a small rise at the dimly-lit side of the stage for about six minutes before the actors and audience realised that his initial spasms were more than realistic acting. Several doctors in the audience at the Sani Beach Hotel at Kassandra on the northern Greek peninsula of Chalkidiki tried to revive Mr Wheeler, without success. *[R] D.Telegraph, 19 Aug 1997.*

A MAN OF 36 was hospitalised after stabbing his 57-year-old mother to death, eating her entrails and jumping out of the fourth-floor window of their apartment in Moscow. He told police he was enraged by his mother's cursing of government policies. After killing her he carved up the body, ran some of her entrails through a meat grinder and ate them while watching television. He jumped several hours later, suffering concussion, a broken spine and numerous cuts and bruises. *Hong Kong Standard, 12 July 1997.*

GEOFF COUPLAND

GREAT MOMENTS IN SCIENCE #25


THE EPITOME OF CRANKY ANTI-SCIENCE OF THE NAZIS WAS THE "WELTEISLEHRE" OF HANS HÖRBIGER (1860-1931), A DOCTRINE THAT SAW ALL OF PHYSICS AS A BATTLE BETWEEN ICE AND FIRE!
TO HÖRBIGER, THE UNIVERSE BEGAN WITH A COLLISION BETWEEN A VAST BLOCK OF ICE AND A SUN -- AND THE MILKY WAY WAS A RING OF ICE BLOCKS!
WHEN CONFRONTED WITH PHOTOS SHOWING THE MILKY WAY WAS ACTUALLY BILLIONS OF STARS, HE DISMISSED THEM AS FAKES!
FAKE!
HIS IDEAS HAD INTERESTING PRECEDENTS...
SIR WILLIAM HERSCHEL (1738-1822) DISCOVERER OF URANUS, BELIEVED THE SUN WAS COOL BENEATH ITS HOT SURFACE!
I'M COOL
IN 1798, CHARLES PALMER WROTE A PAMPHLET ATTEMPTING TO PROVE THAT THE SUN WAS MADE OF ICE!
SCOTTISH ASTRONOMER JOHN FINLEYSON (1770-1854) DECLARED THAT ALL STARS WERE MADE OF ICE!
"GOD PUT THEM THERE TO AMUSE US"
HUNT EMERSON + BOB RICKARD ©97

Strange Cults
Psychics
Alternative Healing
MYSTERIES OF MIND SPACE & TIME
The Unexplained
TAKE This 128-page HARDBACK book FREE! WITH NO OBLIGATION TO BUY ANYTHING
If dinosaurs had survived would this be the face of "MANKIND"?

Do you dare probe the strange, incredible, sometimes terrifying, but always fascinating

MYSTERIES OF MIND, SPACE & TIME?

NOW! The clandestine habits of mystics, psychics, ghosts, vampires and otherwordly creatures are revealed!

Introducing one of the most amazing series of books you are ever likely to read...Explore the very questions of life and death ...Discover the nature of gods and demons, angels and witches, strange cults, UFOs...

Here's an invitation for you to delve deeply into the **Mysteries of Mind Space and Time** — the world of the **UNEXPLAINED!** Be warned! Take up this invitation and you will come face to face with page after page of amazing photographs, macabre events, stories of sorcerers, exorcists and witches who claim to have clashed with evil forces within our universe!

Mysteries of Mind Space and Time lays bare the very essence of human fantasies and fears ...and the conclusions are not always reassuring!

For those eager to confront the SUPERNATURAL... Take this RISK- FREE TRIAL OFFER

Complete the coupon to get your FREE copy of Volume 1 along with Volume 2 on 10-day trial. It not satisfied just return Volume 2 within the trial period and that's the end of the matter. If you keep and pay for Volume 2, you'll then receive all the remaining 24 volumes in the series in one parcel — on 10-day trial — and you only need pay for them at the rate of two volumes a month!

It's yours to discover, from Acupuncture to Zombies in 26 mind-stretching volumes, over 3,200 pages, more than 1,500 articles, over 5,000 illustrations most in full colour, eyewitness accounts, UFO casebooks and Photofiles.

Enter the realms of darkness if you dare!

To: New Era Press, FREEPOST (SCE4349), Marlborough, Wilts SN8 2YY

YES! Please send me the introductory volume of **Mysteries of Mind, Space & Time** which is mine to keep FREE along with Volume 2 on ten-day trial. If I decide to keep and pay for Volume 2 you will then send me all the remaining books in the series (Volumes 3-26) in one parcel — **but also on ten-day trial**. I may return any book that I wish and I need only pay for those that I do keep at the rate of just two volumes a month. Each volume costs £9.95 fully inclusive of postage and handling except Volume 1 which is mine to keep FREE whatever I may decide.

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss ______

Address ______

______

Post code ______ Telephone No. ______

Signature ______ (I am over 18) 12240-8

All orders subject to acceptance and credit subject to status. Offer applies UK and Eire only. We sometimes allow other advertisers to use our mailing list. If you do not wish to receive their material please tick here ☐

SPIRIT OF THE LAW

PART II

Continuing his trawl through the legal libraries and courtroom rulings in search of Forteana, **ANDREW DENNIS** uncovers a number of cases that again highlight the judicial jumpiness in dealing with evidence of paranormal activity – from a council home poltergeist to an ex-policeman's crank calls made under the wayward influence of the spirit of a deceased deviant. Illustrations by **FABRICE**

I mentioned, in the first instalment of this survey of legal Forteana [***FT103:22***], that the law reports were a rich mine of curiosities, both spiritual and temporal. I have not been idle since and crave your indulgence while I present a parade of strange entities and people who have joined the majestic pageant of the law. Take, for example, the case of **Regina v. Cooper**,[1] heard by magistrates at Hemel Hempstead on 4 December 1995.[2] Mr Cooper, a former police officer, was convicted of making obscene telephone calls. His modus operandi was unusual, if not unique: he would first call his victims and inform them that he was a police inspector on the trail of a nuisance caller who might well be making a call. He asked that his victim keep the caller on the line as long as possible so as to enable the call to be traced and the man arrested. That done, he would call again and take advantage of the groundwork he had laid to say whatever it was he felt he had to.

Even more ground-breaking was his defence at trial. He claimed to be the victim of a "spirit attachment", formed between him and a deceased 19th-century ne'er-do-well named 'Peter the Pervert'. As a result of that attachment, he said, he was not in control of his actions and therefore entitled to raise the defence, normally advanced by sleepwalkers and epileptics, of "non-insane automatism".

HE CLAIMED TO BE THE VICTIM OF A SPIRIT ATTACHMENT TO 'PETER THE PERVERT'

The magistrates would have none of it, and convicted him, thus depriving the world of Cooper's explanation of how a criminal dead these 100 years past knew about late 20th-century police and telecommunications practice.

The courts generally take a dim view of evidence advanced from the other side. In **Regina v. Young**, a case which is now one of the leading decisions on jury procedure, the jury in a murder trial used a Ouija board to solicit the views of the victim as to the identity of his killer. Not surprisingly, the deceased fingered the defendant from beyond the grave and the resulting brouhaha was the subject of a great deal of press comment and an appeal court judgement which ordered a retrial.[3]

The judiciary have been similarly disapproving in civil matters. In **Cummins v. Bond**,[4] in 1926, Mr Justice Eve noted of a copyright case concerning the channelled text *The Chronicle of Cleophas* that he could not accept that "authorship and copyright rest with someone already domiciled on the other side of the inevitable river". His lordship felt that the matter was not for one of His Majesty's judges to rule upon.

That disapproval goes back quite a long way. I referred to the Witchcraft Act of 1735 in 'Spirit of the Law: Part One', which statute was used along with the various Vagrancy Acts to persecute spiritualists thought to be fraudulent, but the recorded prosecutions under it largely date from the first half of this century. The Victorians seem largely to have thought the Witchcraft Act too archaic for use in times of bounding scientific and industrial progress, and used the Vagrancy Act to sweep up spiritualists along with gypsy palmists, crystal-ball gazers and others thought undesirable in an Age of Reason.

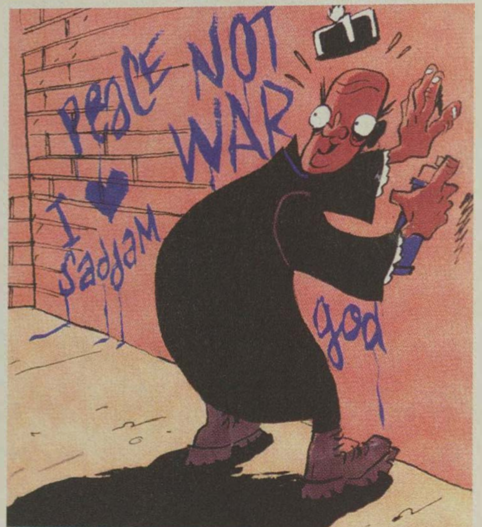
The scorn of the judiciary, however, is clear in a number of 19th-century cases with a spiritual element. In 1866, Mr Justice Gifford, Vice-Chancellor of the Court of Chancery, as it then was, heard an action[5] to recover gifts given by the elderly widow Lyon to the celebrated medium Daniel Home, who had toured Europe with his levitations and seances and been excommunicated as a sorceror by the Catholic Church. Lyon consulted Home when her late husband's prophecy that she would not survive him by more than seven years failed to come true. Within a few weeks of their first meeting, she had adopted him as her son, remade her will in his favour, and channelled some £30,000 to him by way of a trust fund. Home had, apparently, contacted the late Mr Lyon who had given instructions for all these dispositions. Mrs Lyon was happy with the arrangement until Home refused her sexual advances, upon which she went to court to get her money back. Although Home lost the case, Gifford took some pity on him, ordering Lyon to pay the whole of his legal costs. That notwithstanding, Gifford found that spiritualism, "as presented by the evidence, is mischievous nonsense, well calculated [..] to delude the vain, the weak, the foolish and the superstitious".

The judicial mood had softened a little by the time two prosecutions of spiritualists came up in 1876, both under the Vagrancy Acts. In the first, which was reported in the press at the time, the American 'slate-writing' medium Henry Slade was exposed as a fraud by Professor Ray Lankester, who at one of Slade's London seances snatched one of the locked slates before the message was supposed to have been channelled. The message was discovered to have been written beforehand, and Slade was sentenced to three months' hard labour. His conviction was quashed on a technicality, and he fled the country before a fresh summons could be issued for his retrial. ▶

The second, in the law reports as **Monck v. Hilton**[6], arose out of a private seance held in Huddersfield. The defendant, ‘Dr’ Francis Monck, was a former clergyman and a medium who claimed once to have been teleported from his bed in Bristol to a hotel in Swindon. Having manifested rappings, ghostly writing, fairy bells and the like at Huddersfield, he fled when asked to submit to a search of his person. In doing so, he left behind a number of conjurors’ props which gave the game away. He appealed against his conviction on a technical point concerning the precise words of the Vagrancy Act[7], and lost. The Appeal court upheld his conviction, and one of the judges noted that the validity or otherwise of spiritualism “would be a very improper one for argument and decision in a court of law. But it does not arise in the present case, because we have found as a fact that the appellant [Monck] was an imposter in pretending to make use of it”.

But such caution was by no means universal. In **Penny v. Hanson**[8], heard 10 years later, a fortune-teller styling himself ‘Neptune the Astrologer’ was entrapped into a conviction under the Vagrancy Act by a detective. He appealed and in one of the shortest judgements on record, of which I reproduce here nearly half, the Court held: “In this case *res ipsa loquitur*. It is absurd to suggest that this man could have believed in his ability to predict the fortunes of another by knowing the hour and place of his birth and the aspect of the stars at which time. We do not live in times when any sane man believes in such a power.”

In this century, judges have tended to be more cautious. The judgement in Duncan’s case[9] refused to comment on the validity or otherwise of spiritualist practice, drawing only on evidence that Duncan was a fraud. What is probably the last prosecution on record under the Witchcraft Act 1735, **Regina v. Botham**,[10] turned more on Botham’s theft of £1,500 in cash, which he assured his victim had been dematerialised by her late husband’s shade and applied to medical charities, than on any real claim to spiritualism.



In the case of Hummeltenberg’s will,[11] the court held that the London Spiritualistic Alliance, a training foundation for mediums, “preference being given to healing mediums and those for diagnosis of disease”,[12] was not a charitable institution under English law, as there was no clear element of public benefit, a *sine qua non* of legally-established charities. Mr Justice Russell, who heard the case, also noted that the argument before him had turned partly on whether “the training of mediums necessarily involves, or tends to involve, illegality [..] I prefer to express no opinion until it becomes necessary to do so”. It did not, and we may find much to commend in this example of judicial forteanism.

A more recent case on similar subject matter is **Funnell v. Stewart**[13] in which the charitable status of a small, but public faith-healing group was called into question. It was held that the public’s perception of its own benefit had changed since the time of Hummeltenberg’s case and spiritual healing, albeit in this case in a Christian rather than spiritualist tradition, was now properly charitable. It might or might not have helped that the Witchcraft Act had since been repealed.

On a spookier note, the High Court has heard a couple of cases about haunted houses. **R. v. Nottinghamshire County Council ex. P. Costello**[14] was a housing case, in which judicial review was sought of a local authority’s decision not to rehouse a family who complained of poltergeist manifestations in their council home. That case failed on the basis that Mr Costello had admitted to an investigating social worker that the manifestations were centred on his wife and that they would follow the family wherever they moved to: the council was held to be justified in relying on that admission.

Of a less paranormal dimension is the case of **Kirkham v Bruce**[15], heard in 1994 before Liverpool High Court . The Kirkhams bought Chingle Hall, near Goosnargh, which happens to be one of the contenders for the title of ‘Most Haunted House in Britain’[16] from Mr Bruce, who it seems waxed lyrical about the tourist potential without once mentioning the £30,000 per annum loss he was making on the place. The Kirkhams won £71,000 in damages.

Mere spirits do not have a monopoly on the courts’ time. As well as assisting Argentine footballers, the Hand of God has brought at least one case before the courts in the shape of **Blake v Director of Public Prosecutions.**[17] The Reverend Jonathan Blake committed criminal damage in the shape of biblical graffiti condemning the actions of the allied forces in Kuwait and Iraq. He maintained that he was instructed to make his protest by God, and that the law of the Church took precedence over the law of the land. He took this defence on appeal against his conviction by magistrates to the Queen’s Bench Divisional Court, where Mr Justice Otton opined that: “A belief, however powerful and genuine, that one has the consent of God against the law of England does not raise a valid excuse for breaking the law of England [..] The belief was honestly and deeply held, but there are consequences which have to follow from such deeply held beliefs.”

This recalls the defence raised, albeit on slightly less ineffable authority, by a taxpayer in the case of **Hebden v. Pepper.**[18] He insisted that as a psychic who’d been “denied the opportunity to become a member of Parliament”, he was no longer bound by the law, in particular as it pertained to payment of income tax. He lost as well.

Finally, from Botswana comes the case of **Borotho v. Borotho**,[19] which turned on whether a marriage could be annulled on the grounds that the husband had been inveigled into it by a false prophecy.

Of course, it doesn’t end there. When I came to search the law reports for these things, I found, as Fort did, one Damned Thing after another, and from the most respectable of sources, too. Those Forteans who are lawyers will find this field of enquiry a welcome diversion from the writs, contracts and conveyances that make up the daily grind. Those who are not will now, I think, find the statement: “It would stand up in court”, which after all was where we began, a little less of a vote-winner than it was before. ⓕ

FOOTNOTES

[1] (1996) 20 *Criminologist* p103.

[2] Sentencing was deferred to January 1996; Mr Cooper was given four months in jail.

[3] At which Mr Young was convicted on two counts of murder. He is currently serving two life sentences.

[4] [1927] 1 Ch. 167.

[5] Reported as Lyon v. Home (1868) 6 Eq. 655

[6] (1877) 2 Ex. D. 268.

[7] Whether “palmistry *or otherwise*” included seances.

[8] (1887) 18 Q.B.D. 478.

[9] *FT 103*; [1944] 2 All E R 220.

[10] At the Old Bailey, June 20, 1950.

[11] In Re. Hummeltenberg; Beatty v. London Spiritualistic Alliance Ltd. [1923] 1 Ch 237.

[12] The case remains one of the leading cases on charities to this day, and law students around the country are probably even now puzzling over the requirement in the will that mediums “be employed in garden or farm work, such occupation might be helpful to their development”.

[13] [1996] 1 *WLR* 288.

[14] (1989) 21 *HLR* 301. ***FT53:30***

[15] *Times*, 21&22 June and 7 July 1994.

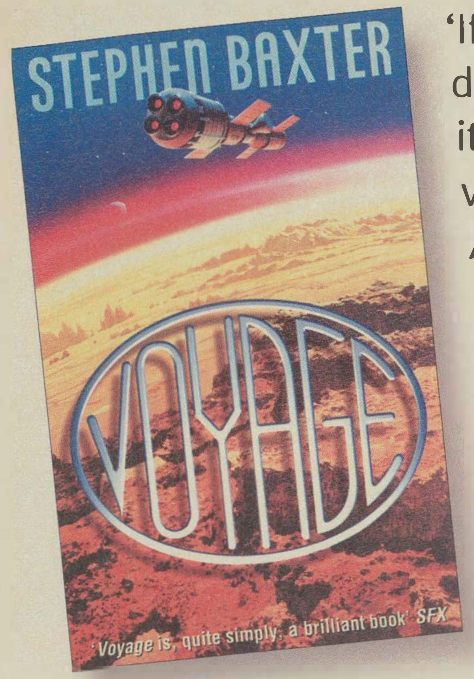
[16] The 13th-century Hall, whatever it’s paranormal pedigree, is certainly the oldest brick-built house in Britain. It is reputed to be haunted by the martyr John Wall and other spirits, and features in most guidebooks to Lancashire.

[17] *The Times*, 26 November 1992 and 19 January 1993.

[18] *Telegraph*, 18 November 1988.

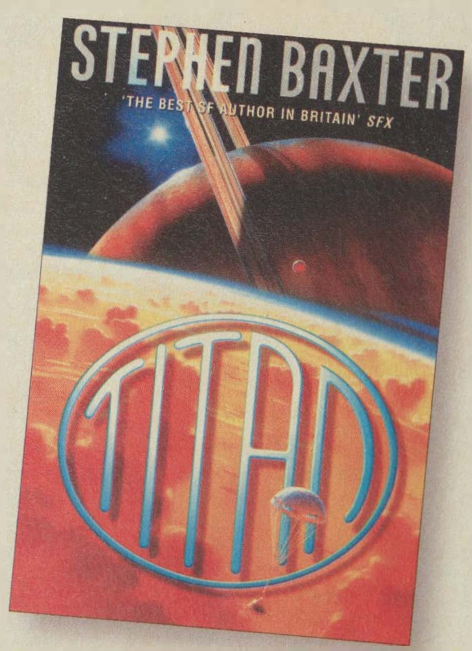
[19] (1996) 40 JAL 103.

STEPHEN BAXTER



‘If political logic had not
derailed the Apollo programme,
it might all have happened
very like this’
Financial Times

Out now in paperback



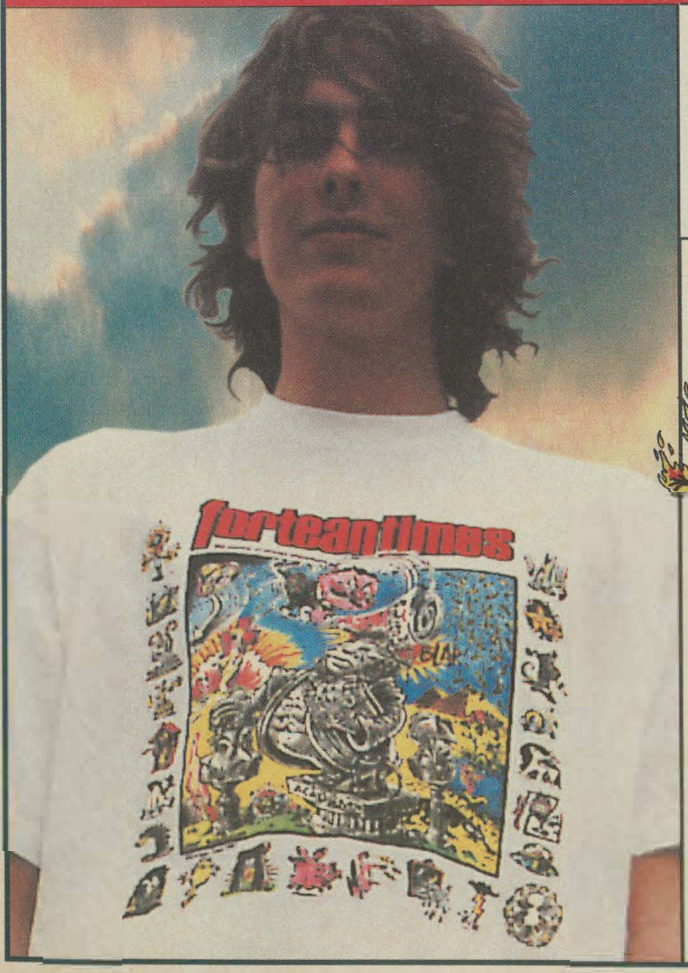
His brilliant new novel,
now out in hardback

'THE BEST SF AUTHOR IN BRITAIN' *SFX*

Voyager

www.harpercollins.co.uk/voyager

THE ONE AND ONLY FORTEAN TIMES T-SHIRT



Back by popular demand
Newly updated
Full-colour illustrations
Exclusive Hunt Emerson design for *Fortean Times*

PRICE £9.99 INC P&P

Please send me _______ *FT* T-shirt(s). (FTTO1/XL)
(Only available in XL)
Name
Address
Postcode Telephone
☐ I enclose a cheque/international money order for_________ made payable to Dennis Direct.
☐ Please debit £_____ from my ☐ Access ☐ Visa ☐ Eurocard ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Connect account
Card Number Expiry date ____/____
☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐
Signature Date
☐ Please tick if you would prefer not to receive occasional mailings from selected companies.

Return this form to: Fortean Times, PO Box 2505, Alcester,
Warwickshire, B50 4JU.
Or phone charge card details on (44) 01789 490215.

100-ADS-711

ALL ABOUT EVP

ELECTRONIC VOICE PHENOMENON (EVP) IS ONE OF THE MOST PECULIAR OF MODERN FORTEAN MYSTERIES, COMBINING AS IT DOES ANCIENT MEDIUMISTIC CONTACT AND MODERN ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY. **JÜRGEN HEINZERLING** REVIEWS ITS HISTORY AND CONCLUDES THAT HERE IS AN AUTHENTIC, ENIGMATIC PHENOMENON IN AN EARLY AND UNDEVELOPED STATE

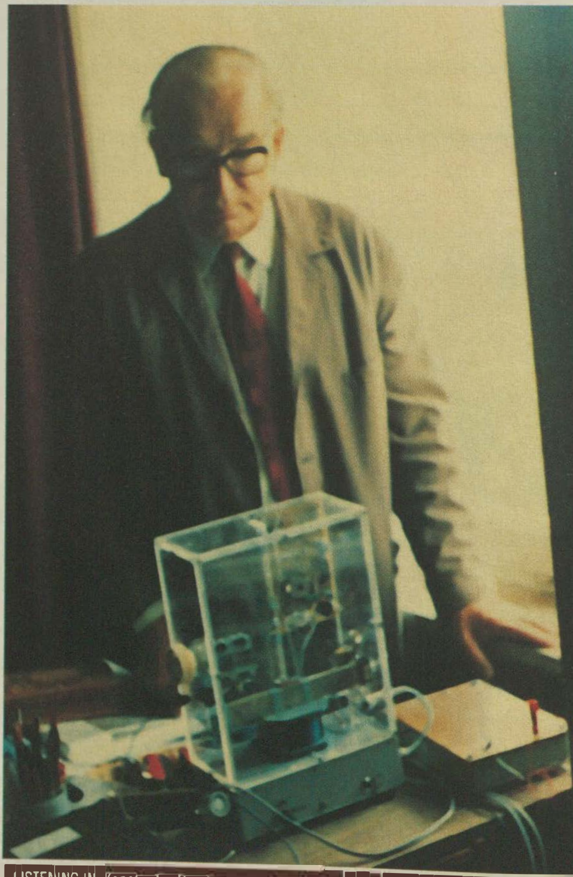
Claims of mediumistic contacts with spirits and other bodiless entities are regularly debunked as either hoaxes or self-delusion. But the Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP), which replaces the human medium with electronic devices, seems to deliver genuinely mystifying results which some devotees declare is evidence for the reality of the spirit world.

For the Fortean investigator, channelling cultists and spiritists are probably the worst kind of unreliable witnesses – their experiences are strongly influenced (and in some cases, certainly, inspired) by quasi-religious expectations – and as dangerous to risk one's reputation on as a suddenly-famous UFO-enthusiast.

But for nearly four decades now, the spiritists have had their own nuts-and-bolts faction; people who are searching for hard evidence rather than subjective narrative. While mechanical and electronic tools have quite frequently been used in attempts to verify the reality of alleged spirit activities, measurements are only able, at best, to support the notion that a researched phenomenon is 'paranormal' rather than hoaxed or imagined. This is especially true for séances, where Occam's Razor dictates that any authentic phenomenon would most probably be caused by a medium's own unknown abilities rather than the intervention of quasi-godly powers.

Séances have occasionally been recorded on audio or video tape, although this was mostly done for documentation (or exposure) rather than for scientific analysis and verification. While it is sometimes claimed that voices or so-called *extras* (ghostly figures) that went unnoticed during a séance were found by later analysis of the recording, Electronic Voice Phenomena are usually discovered on perfectly mundane tape recordings.

The first fully documented case study of EVP was published in 1963 by the discoverer of the phenomenon, Friedrich Jürgenson (see 'How it all Began'), and it included most of the typical aspects of this phenomenon. His conclusion – that voices were made by discarnate spirits – brought him considerable ridicule. But while it is possible that his judgement was flawed, EVP has proven to be an authentic unexplained phenomenon that has never been effectively debunked.



LISTENING IN: Konstantin Raudive was quickly convinced by early EVP recordings

RIGHT: MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY; OPPOSITE: DOUGLAS ARMAND

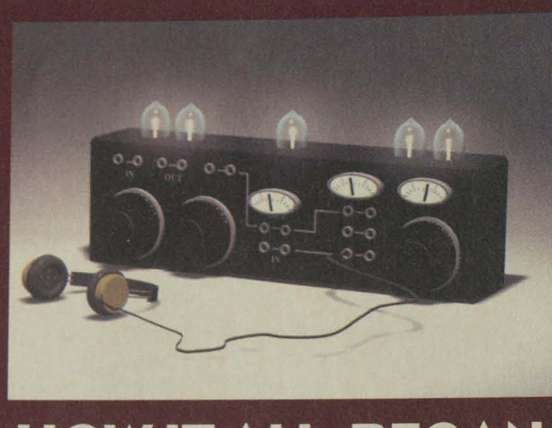
Soon after Jürgenson's findings made the headlines, he was contacted by a Latvian named Konstantin Raudive. It did not take Raudive long to become completely convinced that Jürgenson's recordings were genuine, compelling him to start his own experiments. A number of books, articles and TV documentaries inspired others to research the phenomenon and, by the end of the 1960s, EVP had passed an impressively large battery of successful field tests.

Not unexpectedly, a number of journalists and scientists tried to find a rational explanation for the phenomenon. Some mused that the voices were remnants of previous recordings, which had not been properly erased. But the experimenters countered this attack by using virgin tape. Radio and electromagnetic interference (EMI) were also suspected as possible causes and while it is very probable that some stray radio signals are misinterpreted as EVP, later tests revealed that the phenomenon will also occur in equipment shielded against EMI. Some experimenters even succeeded in recording EVP employing acoustically shielded microphones, which rules out intended or subconscious manipulation by the experimenter as well as accidental recordings of human speech from the environment.

Further experimenting revealed another argument in favour of the paranormal origin of EVP, because it demonstrated that EVP is not a purely technical phenomenon but a strange symbiotic interaction between electronics and the mind of the experimenter. Briefly, most people seem to be able to successfully record EVP, but some cannot, even if they borrow equipment that has been successfully used by another experimenter. In addition, people who also have a notable mediumistic talent will have a very high success rate while employing equipment that remained unresponsive to others.

While the basic radio method (see 'Methods' panel) seems to work well for almost anyone, especially the beginner, there have been several attempts to design a more dedicated and reliable set-up, such as the Spiricom in the USA (see 'Spiricom' panel). In 1975, in Germany, electronic experimenter Hans-Otto König began experimenting with the traditional radio method after watching a controversial TV documentary about EVP on the government-owned TV channel ZDF. He was sufficiently convinced to try to design a system that would do away with the awkward delayed tape analysis by offering the comfort of receiving *direct electro-acoustic voices* (DEV). While it is rather improbable that he knew of O'Neil's work (see 'Spiricom'), König also used auxiliary oscillators to achieve his goal. His basic idea was to 'support' the voices with audio signals beyond the upper frequency threshold of human hearing (20-40 kHz).[1] In the beginning, he used electronic oscillators and ultrasonic transducers to radiate the inaudible frequencies in his lab room. But he soon found that the system worked without the transducers, if only the oscillators were switched on.[2] Later, he also used infrared light, VHF[3]radio waves and complex feedback[4] systems employing a combination of VHF, infrared and ultrasonic signals.

König became known as one of the most successful EVP experimenters, producing many instances of impressive online DEV, seemingly of a group of children or teenagers headed by a girl 'entity' named Anja. Like the Spiricom's inventor O'Neil, König claims that his system is based on ▶



DOUGLAS ARMAND

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In 1953, Friedrich Jürgenson, a Swedish bird-watcher, purchased one of the early portable tape recorders to sample bird song in remote areas. In 1959, while monitoring one of his recordings, he noticed strangely garbled fragments of seemingly human speech had somehow made their way onto the tape, although he was absolutely sure that he had been completely alone when he made the recording. He was so mystified that he started experimenting, successfully recording a huge number of similarly extraneous voices during the next four years.

While the voices were mostly distorted – resembling those of the Daleks from the SF show *Dr Who* – they seemed to belong to intelligent beings. Most were barely intelligible and almost completely drowned by tape hiss, which was a serious problem with the open reel recorders of the time.

By closely listening to the voices, Jürgenson found that they spoke in different languages, often changing to another idiom in mid-sentence. Also, longer phrases often had an improper structure or grammar and, in some cases, the syllables were either stretched or compressed in a way that made it quite hard to comprehend the messages.

The strangest aspect of all was the uncanny way the voices seemed to respond to his comments and even to mention his name now and then. Jürgenson began to hold conversations with the strange voices by recording questions and later searching the tape for answers. When he published his findings in 1963, Jürgenson was completely convinced that he knew the origin of the 'tape voices'[17] – in his opinion, the tape recorder was acting as a form of electronic communication link to the realm of the dead.

METHODS

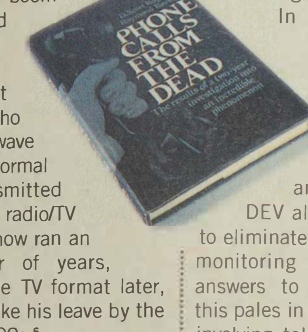
Today, most experimenters use a modified version of Jürgenson's original setup, the so-called radio method, which is supposed to deliver EVP with a somewhat improved audio quality. This setup consists of a mono cassette recorder, an external microphone and a simple short-wave radio receiver. While the first two emulate Jürgenson's original setup, the radio's function is rather mysterious, as it is actually used to provide noise. Illogical as it might seem, this weird modification provides much better results and also seems to increase the rate of success. Some EVP researchers assume that the radio's signal works like a carrier or beacon for the spirit entities, but it could be possible that it serves as a source of electromagnetic power. Be that as it may, the radio can be used in several ways:

1. TUNED TO A FREQUENCY BETWEEN TWO ADJACENT STATIONS, RESULTING IN NOISE;
2. TUNED CLOSE TO, BUT NOT EXACTLY ON THE CENTRE FREQUENCY OF A STATION;
3. TUNED TO A STATION TRANSMITTING IN A LANGUAGE THAT THE EXPERIMENTER DOES NOT SPEAK OR UNDERSTAND;
4. TUNED (RAPIDLY OR SLOWLY) ACROSS THE FULL FREQUENCY BAND DURING THE EXPERIMENT.

Whatever signal the radio provides, it is also recorded on tape.[18] If the radio is used in mode 1 or 2, the EVP will spontaneously emanate from the noise background. Some experimenters feel more comfortable with mode 4, probably because the variation of the noise background isn't as annoying to monitor as a more or less constant hiss. Method 3 is completely different, as the EVP often appear as completely comprehensable sentences in the experimenters own language. More sophisticated variations of the radio method might use additional radio receivers tuned to different frequencies (see 'Spiricom' panel).

▶technical information from the 'spirits', but he has not helped his reputation by refusing to reveal technical details.

Other successful European experimenters include Klaus Schreiber, Adolf Homes and the late Manfred Boden (all Germans; Marcello Bacci and Raffaella Gremese (both Italian); and Maggy and Jules Harsch-Fischbach (of Luxemburg), founders of the Cercle d'Etudes sur la Transcommunication (CETL), presently the most active private institution researching EVP.



PHONE CALLS FROM THE DEAD
The results of a two-year investigation into an incredible phenomenon

GOOD TO TALK: EVP via the telephone discussed

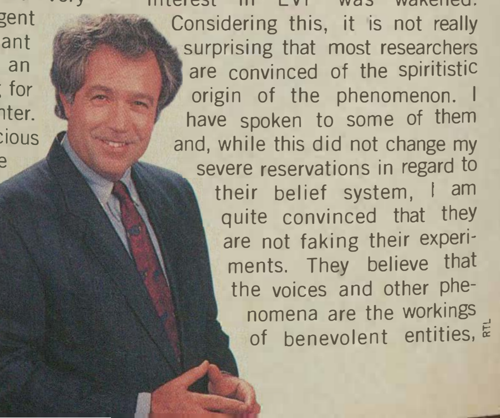
The EVP research boom in Luxemburg and Germany was fired by the open-minded support of journalist Rainer Holbe,[5] who hosted a medium-wave radio show on paranormal phenomena transmitted via the Luxemburg radio/TV network RTL. The show ran an impressive number of years, being adapted to the TV format later, until Holbe had to take his leave by the beginning of the 1990s.[6]

During the heyday of Holbe's show, he had been astute enough to involve two scientific consultants: experimental physicist and university professor Dr Ernst Senkowski provided viewpoints on possible physical causes of the presented phenomena, while psychologist Elmar Gruber, a former student of Europe's most renowned parapsychologist, the late Dr Hans Bender, opined on the psychological and philosophical implications.

HE DECLARED HE HAD BEGUN TO HEAR 'INNER VOICES'

Senkowski became fascinated by EVP and began his own experiments, successfully recording more than 500 hours of tape under laboratory conditions before abandoning them for the sake of his own sanity. Over a period of seven weeks, he declared, he began to hear 'inner voices' that claimed to be the same entities that had communicated with him by EVP. While Senkowski still believes in the paranormal qualities of the phenomenon, he has become convinced that it is not as benevolent as many have presumed.[7]

Like mediums' channelled rapports, EVP has repeatedly produced some contradictory or hilariously unbelievable information. Dr Senkowski now assumes that the EVP entities (or at least some of them) could very probably not be active intelligent beings but, rather, dormant forces who act much like an intelligent database, waiting for input from the experimenter. Once a direct or subconscious input is received, they are sparked to life,[8] involving him in a dialogue. The entity behaves much like a genie, providing more and more information to keep the experimenter interested in further dialogue. This process of subtle manipulation works in both directions, as the entity will try to fulfil the experimenter's expectations, providing him with false information to satisfy his notions.



PROMOTER: Rainer Holbe gave EVP a forum on radio

RTL

A short overview on the history of EVP seems to corroborate Dr Senkowski's theory. In the beginning (1959–1975), the voices were faint, relaying twisted, short phrases, often amalgamating several languages. In the mid period (1975–1981), their messages became much clearer and the new phenomenon of DEV allowed some experimenters to eliminate the awkward procedure of monitoring the tape for delayed answers to their questions. But all this pales in comparison to phenomena involving telephones and computers – see 'High-tech Channelling'.

THE FEAR OF DEATH

Within the restricted space of this article, it is barely possible to scratch the surface of the mass of related phenomena that have been spawned by EVP during nearly four decades of experimenting. But I suspect that this is a complex area – more complex perhaps, than even the contradictory abyss that is ufology.

While I have few doubts about the physical reality of the phenomenon, many interpretations appear to be fallacies. As EVP is widely ignored by the scientific community, the exploration is left to amateur researchers who lack the expert qualifications (not to mention funds and facilities) to resolve the enigma. In addition, their field research is often hampered by a remarkable lack of critical judgement, amplified by the various subjective notions that motivate amateurs experimenting with unknown phenomena.

The fear of death is certainly the first association springing to anyone's mind here, especially in regard to the fact that most of the dedicated researchers were well past mid-life when their interest in EVP was wakened. Considering this, it is not really surprising that most researchers are convinced of the spiritistic origin of the phenomenon. I have spoken to some of them and, while this did not change my severe reservations in regard to their belief system, I am quite convinced that they are not faking their experiments. They believe that the voices and other phenomena are the workings of benevolent entities, most of them spirit discarnations of human beings; these include former experimenters like Raudive, O'Neil and Jürgenson, who're regularly bridging the gap from the other side now.

Obviously, the scientific ignorance of EVP indirectly supports the spreading of this cult, as potential followers are confronted with convincing demonstrations of a phenomenon that are at present only 'explained' by the quasi-religious musings of the convinced cultists.

For the Fortean investigator of cult behaviour, it is also of interest to note that Instrumental Transcommunication technology has already evolved to a state of major schism, with the typical rows and personal attacks that are familiar from core groups of ufology.

And if the latest tales from inside the EVP movement are true, some of the spirits have already joined in the conflict by warning renegade cultists to consider repentance.

HIGH-TECH CHANNELLING

As EVP has come of age, it has spawned a number of related phenomena. Since 1981, Manfred Boden has heard strange noises over the telephone which, he claims, are a new manifestation of DEV.[9] Similar 'contacts' have been ▶

TESTED: Raudive (left) under investigation

VOICES FROM THE DEAD

ETIENNE GILFILLAN FOLLOWS A GERMAN INVESTIGATION

In 1969, under the headline "Goethe - words from the past – has psychology come across an unsolved mystery of humanity?" German magazine *Bild am Sonntag* investigated the EVP phenomenon and spoke to Konstantin Raudive about the famous dead who had contacted him during his various EVP sessions. Raudive claimed to have received messages from Goethe, Shakespeare and even Hitler and brought tape evidence to prove it. Raudive explained: "They introduce themselves – 'Here is your mother; Here is Shakespeare; Here is Hitler. They say who they are, the dead, but they also say: 'We live here [..] in the cities of the dead.'"

He recounted a message from Goethe: "Natacha, contact, here is Goethe. Goethe, dear Helen," followed by one from Shakespeare: "Kosti [Raudive's nickname], here is Shakespeare, we are over the moon!" But these tapes were not proof enough for *Bild am Sonntag*'s editorial team, so Raudive graciously invited them to a live EVP recording. The magazine staff were accompanied by a radio technician and an electronics expert.

Goethe-Worte aus dem Jenseits

HEADLINE: *Bild am Sonntag* contacts the dead

The session began – Raudive spoke clearly into the microphone, naming the date, place and giving the names of participants, followed by a short greeting to "the invisible friends – we begin and request contact". As the cassette ran, Raudive asked the participants to call on dead friends and relatives.

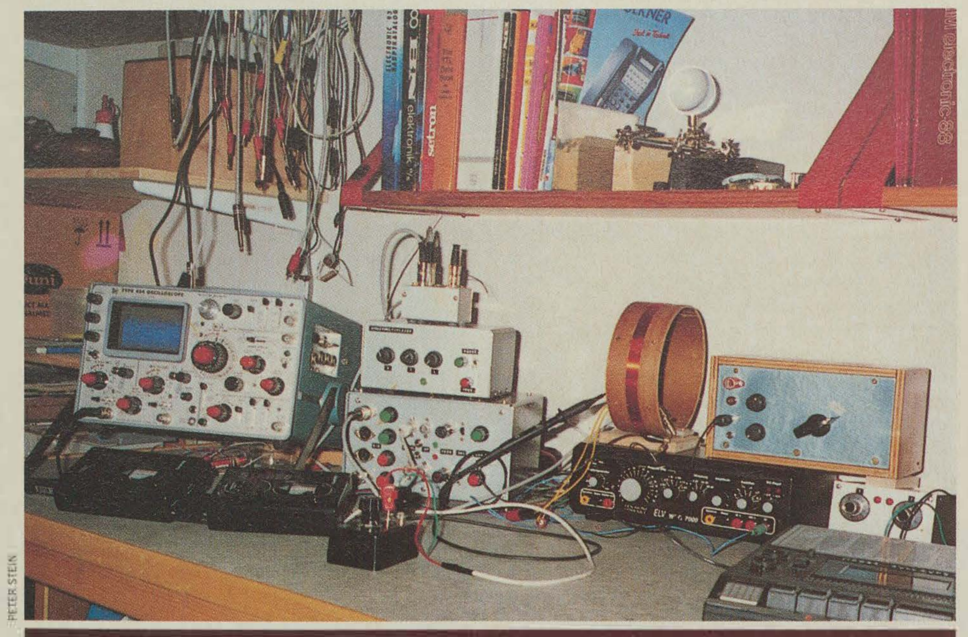
After an hour had passed, everyone was anxious to hear the results of the experiment. The tape was played and to everyone's amazement voices that were clearly not there during the recording emerged. The process of deciphering the words began. Switching from German to Swedish in mid sentence, the voices twice mentioned Rainer Giesen's (one of the writers) name and even more bizarrely called out: "Boy! Eh! Kalle" – referring to another writer's childhood nickname.

Upon leaving Raudive's, the team were understandably baffled.

BREAKTHROUGH

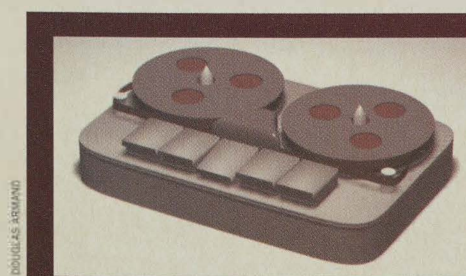
In his 1971 book *Breakthrough,* Dr Raudive transcribes dozens of contacts with statesmen, writers and even his dead mother. Through a bizarre mish-mash of Russian, Latvian, French, German and many other languages the dead relay their cryptic messages

Lenin is said to talk like a patient in a lunatic asylum, reiterating the same ideas that haunted him in his life: "Lenin... Russia is there yesterday and today [..] Radio on earth is scandalous." Hitler also appears to retain his tendency to megalomania: "Here is Major Hitler. Honour Hitler a Little," and later: "The evil is great. Hitler needs Kosti." Messages from Raudive's mother often express maternal concern "Konstantin, your mother. Hold on to me! [..] You have overslept, Kosti, stay in spite of that!" When asked which of his collaborators she likes, she replies: "I like none of them – your mother."



PETER STEIN

LISTENING STATION: EVP researcher Peter Stein's set up is, for all its high-tech trappings, just a variation on the first equipment used



DOUGLAS ARMAND

SPIRICOM

The first major venture towards direct spirit communication was by *Metascience,* founded and financed by successful American businessman and inventor George Meek. Meek had retired before 60, deciding to dedicate the rest of his life to the research of paranormal phenomena. In 1975,[19] he met a rough-hewn ex-soldier named Bill O'Neil, a self-taught electronics whizz and medium who lived in a run-down house in Pennsylvania on a minimal income from odd repair jobs. O'Neil also claimed to be a medium and psychic healer, hardly the facts that make a trustworthy profile. Still, Meek was convinced of O'Neil's integrity when he told him of an accidental discovery he had made while trying to develop a new type of radio antenna. Mixing the signals from two frequency oscillators,[20] O'Neil had suddenly noticed a weird water vortex in his fish tank. This was only the beginning of a number of weird materialisations which culminated in the appearance of a spirit entity introducing itself as *Doc Nick*, with whom O'Neil communicated using mediumistic practices as well as the electronic means he was now to develop.

To cut a long story short,[21] O'Neil convinced Meek that he would be able to develop a full online communication link with the afterlife. O'Neil said he wasn't in it for the money, but Meek supported him with a small weekly payment as well and O'Neil started to work on a device which was later named 'Spiricom'.

Basically, Spiricom resembles the radio method using multiple receivers on different frequencies. But O'Neil used only one radio, which was set to receive the 29.57MHz signal from a low power transmitter operated in the same room. The transmitter was fed with the audio signal from a total of 13 oscillators set to different frequencies from 131Hz to 701Hz.[22]

Now O'Neil was honest enough to confess that it was not him who had thought up this remarkable contraption. The designer, he explained, was one Doc George Jeffries Muller, an ex-NASA scientist with a lot of time on his hands, mainly because he had already died in 1967! But O'Neil claimed that Muller, as Doc Nick's successor, had constantly monitored the proceedings and suggested valuable modifications.

Spiricom was a partial success, because it allowed full online two-way communication with spirits, easily and naturally like a normal phone call. But the audio quality was severely reduced by the cacophony of signals fed into the radio loop. Still, O'Neil made many recordings with extended EVP dialogue, until Spiricom mysteriously ceased functioning in 1981. O'Neil and others tried their best to repair Spiricom or build a new system, but to no avail.

EVP IN THE UK

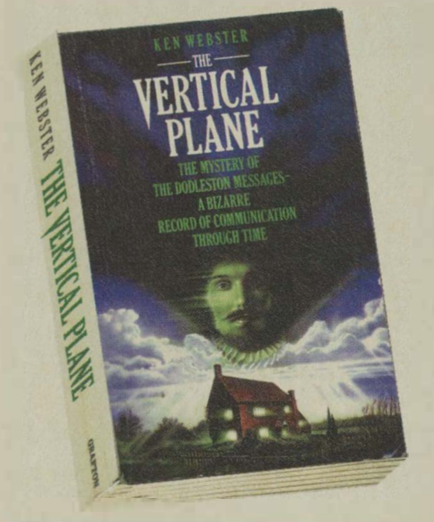
BOB RICKARD RECORDS THE WORK OF BRITISH RESEARCHERS

The importance of EVP was recognised by a group of British researchers active throughout the Seventies and Eighties, including Colin Smythe and Peter Bander (both publishers), Mike Vinter (a writer and novelist), Richard Sheargold (a radio ham and Society for Psychical Research veteran), SV Wilson, Gilbert Bonner and Sam Alsop (who obtained the first video images in the UK), and Raymond Cass, renowned for his hundreds of hours of recordings which include some of the clearest EVP voices known.

Many of these researchers were disappointed when the SPR refused to endorse EVP. As interest in the subject bloomed on the Continent and especially in Germany, it was not long before the UK researchers were outnumbered and out-funded. However the small band continued with their experiments. Cass told *FT* that there are still many mysterious aspects to the subject. "For example, at least 10 per cent of voices seem robotic or mechanical," he said. "Discussion of these 'alien' voices has been suppressed, but now they will be of great interest to ufologists."

Mr Cass – who was one of the few English members of the original Fortean Society in the late 1930s – has produced a taped lecture of his EVP work with sample voices including the poet Philip Larkin. (It is available by post from him at: The Pines, Caravan Complex, Cowden, East Yorks HU11 4UL for £5.95 inc p&p.)

THE GHOSTLY PICTURES WERE OF DECEASED EVP EXPERIMENTERS


KEN WEBSTER
THE VERTICAL PLANE
THE MYSTERY OF THE DODLESTON MESSAGES – A BIZARRE RECORD OF COMMUNICATION THROUGH TIME
KEN WEBSTER THE VERTICAL PLANE
GRAFTON

IT BYTES Ken Webster recorded a computer variant of EVP

▶claimed by a large number of experimenters and especially Homes' long-time collaborator Friedrich Malkhoff.[10]

By definition, telephone voices are still part of the EVP, but an increasing number of reports published from the mid-Eighties claim phenomena better described as Instrumental Transcommunication (ITC), an expression coined by EVP researchers. In 1987, Schreiber and König reported 'paranormal' still video pictures captured by pointing the lens of a video camera at the TV screen it was connected to (this produces a form of 'optical noise' consisting of distorted, moving shapes and colours due to optical feedback).[11] The ghostly pictures were depictions of deceased persons, including some of the original EVP experimenters, that resembled closely, but not exactly, existing photographs. Like the original EVP, the phenomenon could only be revealed by slowly scanning through a tape recording.[12] Some years later, König claimed to be able to demonstrate full video/audio contact. CETL has shown, repeatedly, impressive video/audio contact with a number of spirit entities.

Also from the mid-Eighties, the link between electronics and the paranormal was reinforced through the personal computer. In 1984, British teacher Ken Webster found an unknown file named *KDN*[13] on a computer diskette. It turned out to be a garbled text file with the first of many messages apparently from a man named 'Lukas Wainman',[14] claiming to live in 1546. Webster was quite annoyed by these disturbances, especially later messages originating from a 'Group 2109', which Webster found particularly unpleasant. At the same time, his house was plagued by poltergeist effects, reminiscent of the 'Chopper' case reported from Germany in 1982, which combined psychokinetic effects using telephone EVP and other forms of DEV.

The phenomenon finally disappeared after Webster took his case to the Society for Psychical Research.[15] When one of the distinguished ghost hunters stubbornly refused to offer his immortal soul to 'Group 2109' in exchange for a number of spiritual health tips, the spook instantly disappeared never to return.

While Webster was anything but interested in experimenting,[16] the EVP researchers soon adapted the personal computer as a new conduit between our world and the beyond. Presently, both Homes and CETL regularly receive grammatically and syntactically correct messages, mostly as text files mysteriously appearing on the hard disk, often in the absence of the experimenters themselves. ⓕ

---

[1] Senkowski, Ibid This is the range of sound inaudible to humans but still inside the range of hearing of many animals like dogs and especially bats whose biological radar system is based on these frequencies.

[2] Indicating the phenomenon relies on electromagnetic fields rather than the mechanical power generated by radiating acoustic signals.

[3] Very High Frequency. This is the band above FM radio used for amateur radio, airflight communication and the lower TV channels.

[4] Feedback generally means that a small amount of output signal is returned to the input. If the amount of feedback signal rises beyond a certain point, oscillation occurs. The whistling sometimes occurring in public address systems is the best known form of oscillatory feedback, where part of a loudspeaker signal is returned into the amplifier via a microphone, being re-amplified and driving the system into oscillation.

[5] Though harsher characterisations spring to mind in regard to his original radio shows, it must be said that Holbe turned towards scepticism in his later years.

[6] This was due to a rather casual remark which was interpreted as Nazi by a number of journalists. From my personal communication with Holbe and others I sincerely doubt that he favours Nazi viewpoints. Quite typically, he was soon contracted by RTL's competitor SAT 1 for a similar show. Interestingly, RTL never replaced him, cancelling the show instead, although they had boasted it as a success before.

[7] Mentioned in a personal discussion.

[8] Senkowski (Ibid.) told me that the entities had once described themselves as "candles that glow and can be fired to full brightness".

[9] In his book Senkowski mentions a case study (Scott Rogo/Raymond Bayless, *Phone Calls From The Dead*. London 1980) indicating that the phenomenon of telephone EVP was quite common in the US even before 1980. But most of these cases are built on witness reports of singular occurrences comparable to spirit sightings rather than enhusiasts actually experimenting or ar at least willing to experiment with EVP.

[10] Interestingly, Senkowski (Ibid.) mentions that Malkhoff case is remarkable because his EVP contacts are restricted to the telephone, even though he has often tried to use other proven apparatus like the radio setup. This contradicts what Malkhoff had told me over the phone (in an utterly non-paranormal conversation, by the way) several months before, namely that he is also reasonably comfortable with the computer method (see below). Also, he did nothing to correct my impression that he knew the radio method inside out.

[11] This is actually the optical equivalent of electronic and audio feedback, see above.

[12] A video signal consists of 50 (US: 60) interweaved frames per second, with the first spirit pictures only occurring in a single frame.

[13] Ken (Webster) lived with his girlfriend Debbie and a visitor named Nik at the time so KDN might in fact refer to their initials

[14] Researchers later claimed that Wainman was in reality (sic!) a man named Thomas Harden by providing documents that proved Harden's existance in the 16th century.

[15] I'm quite sure Charles Fort would be intrigued by the implications.

[16] It must be said that Manfred Boden had already claimed computer contact in 1980, but this had the character of a disturbance rather being a transmission of information. Later, he relied on a completely different approach by programming a databank of words and offering it to the forces as a means of building complete phrases. In my and also Senkowski's (Ibid.) personal opinions, this technique leads to misinterpretations as the selection of words mostly reflects the experimenter's preconceived notions, making Boden's received messages sound ominous although they were just assembled from single words and rermarkable for their lack of linguistic structure.

[17] A direct translation of the original German word 'Tonbandstimmen'.

[18] In the most simple setups, the sound from the radio's loudspeaker is recorded via the same microphone that is used for the experimentor's comments. Better systems will employ a simple mixing console to allow for a better adjustment of the respective volume of radio signal and spoken comment.

[19] 1971 in some sources.

[20] His aim was producing a higher frequency signal by intermodulation of two lower frequency signals, a process called modulation synthesis or, in the radio amateurs' idiom, generation of *beat frequencies*.

[21] A full historical account is given in John G Fuller's *The Ghost From 29 Megacycles* (Grafton Books, 1987, ISBN 0-686-06869-4). Remember that this book was written for a mass market readership, which might explain its utter lack of technical detail and scientific sobriety.

[22] Figures from Dr Ernst Senkowski's excellent and complete monograph *Instrumentelle Transkommunikation* (RG Fischer, 1995, ISBN 3-89501-254-8, only available in German).

……

FURTHER READING

Peter Bander. *Carry on Talking: How Dead are the Voices?* Colin Smythe, 1972.
DJ Ellis. *The Mediumship of the Taperecorder.* pub. by author, 1978.
Konstantin Raudive. *Breakthrough: An Amazing Experiment in Electronic Communication.* Taplinger, 1971.
D Scott Rogo & Raymond Bayless. *Phone Calls from the Dead.* Prentice Hall, 1979.
Leslie Shepard. Electronic Voice Phenomenon. In *Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology,* 2nd edition. Gale Research, 1984.
Ken Webster. *The Vertical Plane.* Grafton, 1989.

If you want to improve your social life and are thinking about joining an Introduction Agency – it all comes down to . . .

Making the right choice

With over eight million single men and women in the UK* between the ages of 18 and 64 you might have thought it would be easy to meet someone special. However, people usually meet at work or within the confines of their social circle and even though you may have an interesting job and a busy social life a compatible partner could still be difficult to find.

In terms of cost, service and the number of people you can meet, Dateline provides real value for money – probably the best investment in your social life and future you could ever wish to make.

Don't just take our word for it, just complete this free test questionnaire and see for yourself how our unique and successful formula could easily be put to work for you.

* Government Survey

You will receive in the strictest confidence, entirely free of charge and with no obligation:

- The name and brief description of someone who could be your perfect partner.
- Our colour brochure with lots of information about seeking a partner and meeting people.
- A copy of our popular paperback book *"All You Need Is Love"*.

For your *free* test

send this questionnaire to:
Dateline 25 Abingdon Road, Londo
W8 6AL
for information call us on
01869 324 100
Fax: 01869 324 529
or visit our website
www.dateline.uk.com

1. Personal Information

Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms ☐
Surname:
First Name:
Address:
Post Code

I am seriously interested in meeting someone through Dateline.

Marital Status: Single ☐ Divorced ☐
Widowed ☐ Separated ☐
Age: Height:
Occupation:
Religion:
Build: slight ☐
medium ☐
large ☐
Attractiveness: Very attractive ☐
Attractive ☐
Average ☐

2. Education

Private / Public ☐ Grammar ☐
Comprehensive ☐ Sec. Modern ☐
O Levels / GCSE's ☐ A levels ☐
Further Education ☐
University / Professional Equivalent ☐
Technical Qualification ☐

3. Your Personality

(tick which traits closely describe you)

☐ Affectionate
☐ Serious
☐ Considerate
☐ Shy
☐ Romantic
☐ Fashionable
☐ Practical
☐ Conventional
☐ Reliable
☐ Adventurous

4. Your Attitudes

(tick for yes, cross for no or leave blank)

☐ Do you involve yourself with community activities?
☐ Are you looking for one special relationship?
☐ Does your work make it difficult to meet new people?
☐ Do you want to extend your social life as well as finding a special relationship?
☐ Do you devote a lot of time to your social life?
☐ Do you have many friends of your own sex?
☐ Are you interested in current affairs?
☐ Do you like team activities?

5. Your interests

(sections 5. and 6. Please tick for a like, cross for dislike or leave blank for no preference.)

☐ Wining/Dining
☐ Pubs
☐ Sports/Keep fit
☐ Politics/History
☐ Reading
☐ Travelling
☐ Science/Tech
☐ Cinema
☐ Pets/Animals
☐ Pop music
☐ Jazz/Folk music
☐ Classical music
☐ Theatre/Arts
☐ Watching TV
☐ Smoking
☐ Astrology
☐ Children
☐ Homemaking
☐ Gardening
☐ Countryside

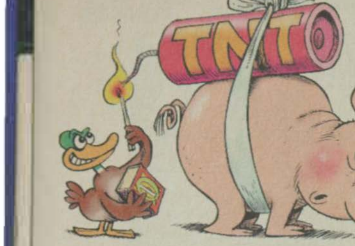
6. Details of your ideal partner

Minimum age: Maximum age:
Height: min. max. Don't mind ☐
Marital status:
Single ☐ Divorced ☐
Widowed ☐ Separated ☐
Don't mind ☐
Build: Slight ☐
Medium ☐
Large ☐
Attractiveness: Very attractive ☐
Attractive ☐
Average ☐

Dateline Anniversary Est. 1966 30TH YEAR

Dept. FORT 15

Dateline



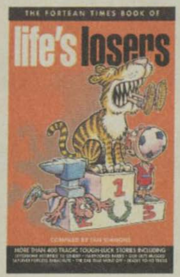
EXPLODING PIGS AND OTHER STRANGE ANIMAL STORIES

Covering weird animal behavior in all its glory, this latest in the popular *Fortean Times* Book of... series also includes chapters such as Animals at the Wheel, The Goat in the Machine and Sex Beasts, and features tales such as the story of the ape which broke into homes in Zaire to try on cosmetics and condoms and the behavioral scientist and her pioneering study of lesbian sheep. 128pp.
£4.99

AT LAST! THE FORTEAN TIMES INDEX WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE 17TH OCTOBER 1997

A complete, detailed index to the full run of the first two decades worth of *Fortean Times*, from issue 1 to issue 66, this invaluable aid will be used constantly and cherished by all Fortean researchers proving a phenomenal time saver for anyone looking for a specific tale published any time between 1973 and 1993. As well as being by far the most detailed guide to contempary Fortean phenomena available anywhere in the world, the FT Index will be a delight to a casual browser, spark new ideas and suggest new lines of enquiry.
320pp, Fortean Studies format.
Special pre-publication price of £25.00 – normal selling price £30.00

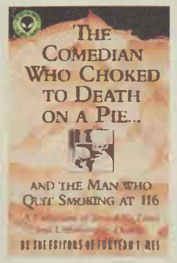
FORTEAN FUNNIES HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WORLD'S GREATEST ARCHIVE OF THE BIZARRE



THE *FORTEAN TIMES* BOOK OF LIFE'S LOSERS
£4.99
More than 400 tragic tough-luck stories, including: letter bomb returned to sender, harpooned rabbis, the ear that went off, the skydiver who forgot his parachute, God gets mugged. 128pp.

THE *FORTEAN TIMES* BOOK OF STRANGE DEATHS
£4.99
More than 350 exotic extinctions including: death by doughnut, flying turnip tragedy, chainsaw suicides. 128pp.

THE *FORTEAN TIMES* BOOK OF INEPT CRIME
£4.99
More than 375 farcical felonies, including: don't hide a lobster down your underpants, chilli pepper enema, mugged by muppets, dental floss jailbreak. More than just inept, these crimes are bizarre and spectacular too. 128pp.

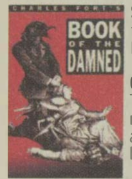


NEW! THE COMEDIAN WHO CHOKED TO DEATH ON A PIE...
£9.99
The American version of the Fortean Times Book of Strange Deaths – including an extra chapter on unusual longevity. 114pp

FORT BOOKS REPRINTING THE ORIGINAL WORKS.

NEW! CHARLES FORT'S LO! **£9.99**
The third volume of Charles Fort's classic works includes cases of teleportation, mysterious falls from the sky, monstrous creatures, plus the first ever published account of a 'Close Encounter of the Third Kind'. 320pp

CHARLES FORT'S BOOK OF THE DAMNED **£9.99**
The first major revision of the Forteans' founding book. Strange aerial objects, teleportation, rains of blood and fish... the whole damned procession observed with Fort's "gorgeous madman's humour". 320pp.



CHARLES FORT'S NEW LANDS **£9.99**
This, the second volume of Charles Fort's works, deals mainly with an astonishing selection of strange aerial and astronomical phenomena. Plus a new introduction by Jerome Clark. 256 pp.

OTHER BOOKS FROM THE *FT* STABLE

STRANGE DAYS #1 THE YEAR IN WEIRDNESS **£9.99**
STRANGE DAYS #2 THE YEAR IN WEIRDNESS **£9.99**
Volume one includes the full story of strangeness in 1995 and volume two covers everything weird and wonderful in 1996. Both volumes contain the SCHWA SCAR awards for the years outstanding weirdness. US licensed FT books

WEIRD YEAR 1996 **£7.99**
Full colour review of this year's strangeness. 50 pages of all new features and news, plus the best of Strange Days in a heavily illustrated, full-colour, 128pp album.

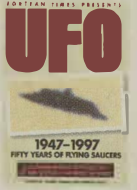
THE BOOK OF THE MILLENNIUM
Kevin McClure **£9.99**
The definitive work – all you need to know about end of the world predictions, doomsday cults and millenarianism, by the UK's leading expert on the subject. 160pp + 8pp of photos.

FORTEAN STUDIES *FT*'S SCHOLARLY ANNUALS. HIGHLY ACCLAIMED

FORTEAN STUDIES VOL. 1 **£19.99**
Fully referenced and all new material — more than 250,000 words by leading researchers. Luminous owls, 1909 airship flap, Devil's hoofprints, giant octopus, etc, plus comprehensive index to 1993 issues of *FT*. 350pp.

FORTEAN STUDIES VOL. 2 **£19.99**
Another feast of anomalies; original and fully referenced. Marine lightwheels, out-of-place coelacanths, mystery cats, Icelandic water monsters, Nazi archæology, etc, plus index to 1994 issues of *FT*. 320pp.

NEW! FORTEAN STUDIES VOL. 3 **£19.99**
More brand new research – Spring-heeled Jack, screaming skulls; UFOs and the media; giant birds etc; fully referenced. Plus index to 1995 issues of *FT*. 384pp – over 300,000 words.



UFO 1947 – 1997 A DEFINITIVE HISTORY OF THE UFO PHENOMENON. **£16.99**
Dennis Stacy and Hilary Evans - two of the best known UFO researchers in the world – chronicle the last five decades of the UFO phenomenon. Contributions from Jerome Clarke, Bill Chalker, Vicente-Juan Ballester-Olmes and Jim Moseley. Royal Format Illustrated Hardback 256pp

_FT_ SLIPCASE **£7.99**
Keep your copies of *FT* in pristine condition in one of our slipcases. Bound in deep red cloth with the *Fortean Times* logo blocked on the spine in gold, holds up to 12 copies.

BACK ISSUE CLEARANCE SALE

All back issues are now £2.00 (£2.50 Overseas). Call the order line on +44 (0) 1454 202515 for details on available issues or see the advert on page 50.

FORTEAN TIMES COMPILATIONS
COMPLETE REPRINTS OF LONG OUT-OF-PRINT ISSUES

YESTERDAY'S NEWS TOMORROW — *FORTEAN TIMES* 1-15 **£19.99**
Moon mysteries, mass hysteria, anti-gravity, sexy spectres, Travis Walton, mystery wounds, etc. Fully illustrated, 400pp.

DIARY OF A MAD PLANET — *FORTEAN TIMES* 16-25 **£19.50**
Levitating nun, coloured rains, Morgawr and the owl-man, fairy encounters, missile-throwing clouds, skyquakes, etc. Fully illustrated, 416pp.

SEEING OUT THE SEVENTIES — *FORTEAN TIMES* 26-30 **£14.99**
Mystery big cats, spontaneous combustion, parallel lives, Uganda's talking tortoise, etc. Fully illustrated, 320pp.

GATEWAYS TO MYSTERY — *FORTEAN TIMES* 31-36 **£19.99**
Enfield poltergeist, delayed death touch, dinosaur hunting, alien abductions, phantom hitch-hikers, miracle fuels, Kuano river boy, etc. Fully illustrated, 416pp.

HEAVEN'S REPRIMANDS — *FORTEAN TIMES* 37-41 **£19.99**
Entombed toads, rat kings, Australia's lizard monsters, hair-clipping panics, crop circles, stigmatics, sinister clowns, cattle mutilation, encounters with Castor and Pollux, etc. Fully illustrated, 416pp.

IF PIGS COULD FLY — *FORTEAN TIMES* 42-46 **£19.99**
Kenyan stone showers, Exmoor Beast, people with horns, Smurfs on the rampage, killer telephones, possessed dolls, the Holy Foreskin, the Jabberwocks of Quebec, etc. Fully illustrated. 416pp.

FISHY YARNS — *FORTEAN TIMES* 47-51 **£19.99**
Welsh find America, X-ray vision, natural rejuvenation, thylacines, burning hands, the Shrouds of Turin and Liverpool, messages on eyeballs, deaths of Marconi scientists, Men in Black, holygrams, etc. Fully illustrated, 432pp.

BONFIRE OF THE ODDITIES — *FORTEAN TIMES* 52-56 **£19.99**
The Tasaday tribe hoax, Multiple Personality Syndrome, cold fusion, humans with tails, sardine rain, record postal delays, teleportations, history of Father Christmas, whale attacks, Muslim wonders, etc. Fully illustrated, 424pp.

STRANGE ATTRACTORS — *FORTEAN TIMES* 57-62 **£19.99**
Phantom social workers, drilling to Hell, hiccup records, incorrupt bodies, Satanic child abuse, trepanation, Mexican wolf boys, feline globetrotters, near-death experiences, toe-suckers, etc. Fully illustrated, 432pp.

THE PLUMBER FROM LHASA – *FORTEAN TIMES* 63-67 **£19.99**
The face on Mars, blood miracles, Alternative 3, seiche waves, Spielberg's supernatural epics, Darwin re-examined, giant penguins, dead sea serpents, and an expose of Tibetan lama T Lobsang Rampa – really a plumber's son from Plympton. Fully illustrated, huge new A4 format, 368 pp.

NEW! MEMORIES OF HELL – *FORTEAN TIMES* 68-72 **£19.99**
Modern fairy sightings, Peruvian vampires, sightings of 'extinct' moas, a profile of the fraudulent Brazilian medium Mirabelli. Plus a detailed investigation into one of the hottest Fortean topics of the moment – 'false memory syndrome'. Fully illustrated, huge new A4 format, 356pp.

fortware

fortwear

SCHWA

NOW AVAILABLE FRESH AND CRYSTAL PACKED STRAIGHT FROM MARS.

STAY SPACED OUT WEAR SCHWA

❶ **BLACK GLOW-IN-THE-DARK ORIGINAL SCHWA T-SHIRT**
£10.99

❷ **BLACK GLOW-IN-THE-DARK FLY SCHWA T-SHIRT**
£10.99

❸ **BLACK GLOW-IN-THE-DARK ORIGINAL SCHWA FITTED TOP**
£12.99

❹ **BLACK GLOW-IN-THE-DARK WARNING SCHWA T-SHIRT**
£10.99

❺ **BLACK GLOW-IN-THE-DARK SUNSHINE SCHWA T-SHIRT**
£10.99

ORDER NOW BY CALLING 01789 490215

or fill in the order form on this page. A free catalogue of all SCHWA and GOATSUCKER merchandise including the SCHWA RECORD BAG is available by ringing 01789 490215

SCHWA RECORD BAG Made from hardwearing waterproof Astro Nylon with a textured front panel embroidered with the Schwa Alien Head logo, comes with shoulder strap – **£19.99**

GOATSUCKER

WEAR YOUR PUERTO RICAN MAMMAL MANGLER WITH PRIDE

GOATSUCKER #1 T-SHIRT
Original Goatsucker design on dark green short-sleeved T-shirt. Size XL – £9.99

GOATSUCKER #2 T-SHIRT
Left side chest print on grey T-shirt.
Size XL S-S – £9.99
Size XL L-S – £10.99

GOATSUCKER #3 T-SHIRT
New design on navy short-sleeved T-shirt.
Size XL – £9.99

NEW! BLUE 'GOATSUCKER' FITTED TOP – £12.99

WORK REST AND SCHWA – EAT SLEEP AND GOATSUCK

ALL T-SHIRTS ARE SIZE XL AND 100% HEAVYWEIGHT COTTON.
FITTED TOPS ARE ONE SIZE (10/12) THEY ARE ALSO IDEAL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

We accept photocopies of this coupon

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Item	Code	UK Price	US Price	Overseas	Quantity	Value
Book of the Damned	FT03A	£9.99	$22.00	£10.99		
New Lands	FT24A	£9.99	$22.00	£10.99		
Fortean Studies Vol. 1	FT10A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
Fortean Studies Vol. 2	FT11A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
Fortean Studies Vol. 3	FT12A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
Yesterday's News Tomorrow	FT25A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
Diary of a Mad Planet	FT08A	£19.50	$44.00	£22.00		
Seeing Out the Seventies	FT28A	£14.99	$34.00	£17.00		
Gateways to Mystery	FT14A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
Heaven's Reprimands	FT16A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
If Pigs Could Fly	FT17A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
Fishy Yarns	FT13A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
Bonfire of the Oddities	FT04A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
Strange Attractors	FT29A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
Strange Days #1	FT30A	£9.99	n/a	£10.99		
Strange Days #2	FT54B	£9.99	n/a	£10.99		
Book of Strange Deaths	FT05A	£4.99	$11.00	£5.50		
Slipcase	FT42A	£7.99	$15.50	£8.99		
The Plumber from Lhasa	FT70A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
Book of Inept Crime	FT71A	£4.99	$11.00	£5.50		
Book of Life's Losers	FT72A	£4.99	$11.00	£5.50		
The Book of the Millennium	FT22A	£9.99	$22.00	£10.99		
Weird Year 1996	FT78A	£7.99	$18.00	£8.99		
NEW! Lo!	FT88A	£9.99	$22.00	£10.99		
NEW! Memories of Hell	FT87A	£19.99	$44.00	£22.00		
NEW! UFO 1947 – 1997	FT89A	£16.99	$38.00	£19.00		
NEW! Fortean Times Index	FT04B/P	£25.00	$54.00	£27.00		
The Comedian Who...	FT34B	£9.99	n/a	£10.99		
SCHWA "Original"	FT46A	£10.99	$24.00	£11.99		
SCHWA "Original" Fitted Top	FT54A	£12.99	$28.00	£13.99		
SCHWA Baseball Cap	FT44A	£11.99	$26.00	£12.99		
SCHWA Ski Hat	FT57A	£7.99	$17.00	£8.50		
SCHWA Warning	FT61A	£10.99	$24.00	£11.99		
SCHWA Sunshine	FT58A	£10.99	$24.00	£11.99		
SCHWA Fly	FT53A	£10.99	$24.00	£11.99		
FORTEAN TIMES T-shirt	FTT01/XL	£9.99	$22.00	£10.99		
Complete SCHWA kit	FT49A	£10.99	$24.00	£11.99		
SCHWA Sticker & Card Pack	FT59A	£5.99	$13.00	£6.50		
NEW! SCHWA Record Bag	FT48B	£19.99	$44.00	£21.99		
Goatsucker Fitted Top	FT40A/F	£12.99	$28.00	£13.99		
Goatsucker #1 S/S T-shirt	FT40A/G	£9.99	$22.00	£10.99		
Goatsucker #2 S/S T-shirt	FT40A/GR	£9.99	$22.00	£10.99		
Goatsucker #2 L/S T-shirt	FT40A/LS	£10.99	$24.00	£11.99		
Goatsucker #3 S/S T-shirt	FT40A/N	£9.99	$22.00	£10.99		
SCHWA Pin Badge	FT79A	£3.99	$9.00	£4.50		

Postage and packing are free **Total £ _____**

Mrs/Miss/Ms/Mr

Address

Postcode Tel

I enclose a cheque/International money order for £__________ made payable to Dennis Direct, *(If paying in dollars please make cheques payable to John Brown Publishing)* or debit the above amount from my **(circle one)**
Access / Visa / Mastercard / Eurocard / American Express / Connect account.

Card No |_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|

Expiry Date ____/____

Signature ____________________ Date __________

☐ Please tick if you would prefer **not** to receive occasional mailings from selected companies

Please return this order form to: ***Fortean Times*, PO Box 2505, Alcester, Warwickshire B50 4JU. UK** or phone charge card details on **(44) 01789 490 215**. Allow 28 days for delivery in the UK, 6-8 weeks for overseas orders.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A FREE SCHWA CATALOGUE CALL 01789 490215

Shop Owners: If you wish to stock our merchandise call *0191 281 5629*. 100-97-11

SOUNDS BIZARRE talks on strange phenomena by the world's leading researchers and investigators. Recorded live at the *Fortean Times* UnConventions. For a list of tapes available please contact Teresa Stow, John Brown Publishing, The New Boathouse, 136-142 Bramley Road London W10 6SR. Tel: 0171 565 3126

THE HAY-TEAM

JOHN MICHELL ROLLS OUT THE YEAR'S CROP CIRCLES AND DEEP MYSTERIES. PHOTOS BY STEVE ALEXANDER

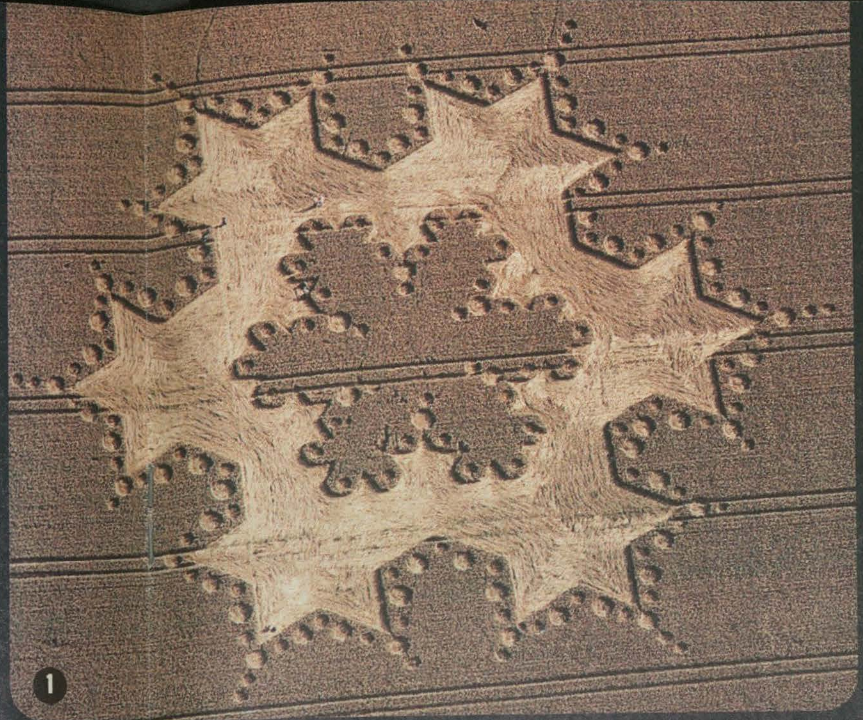
The crop circle phenomenon constantly challenges every theory and explanation that people bring to it. In the early years, it was officially stated that the circles were caused by 'stationary whirlwinds' or 'plasma vortices' in the atmosphere. These vortices – imagined as luminous – were also said to be the cause of the UFO phenomenon.

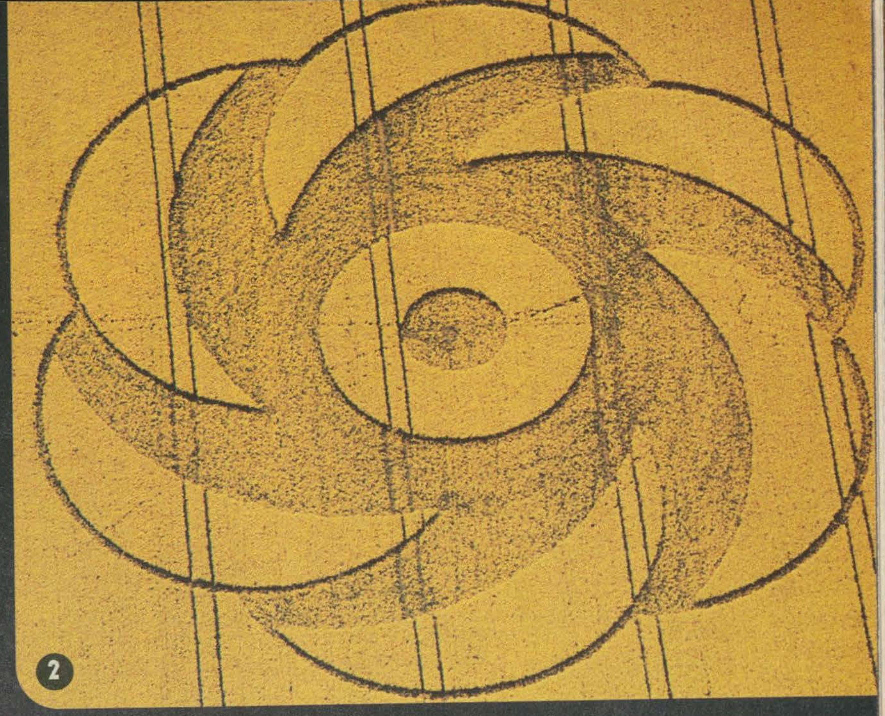
The elaboration of crop circles into symbols and geometric forms put paid to the whirlwind theory and the official explanation changed. Crop formations were said to be, entirely, the work of 'hoaxers'. Beginning with that famous old pair of tricksters, Doug and Dave, many people claimed that they or their team were the makers of various formations. In some cases this was undoubtedly true. Yet, every year there are formations, so obviously superior to those of the known hoaxers, that perplexity returns. Even the hoaxers are puzzled by the 'superior' formations and attribute them to a hypothetical 'A-Team'.

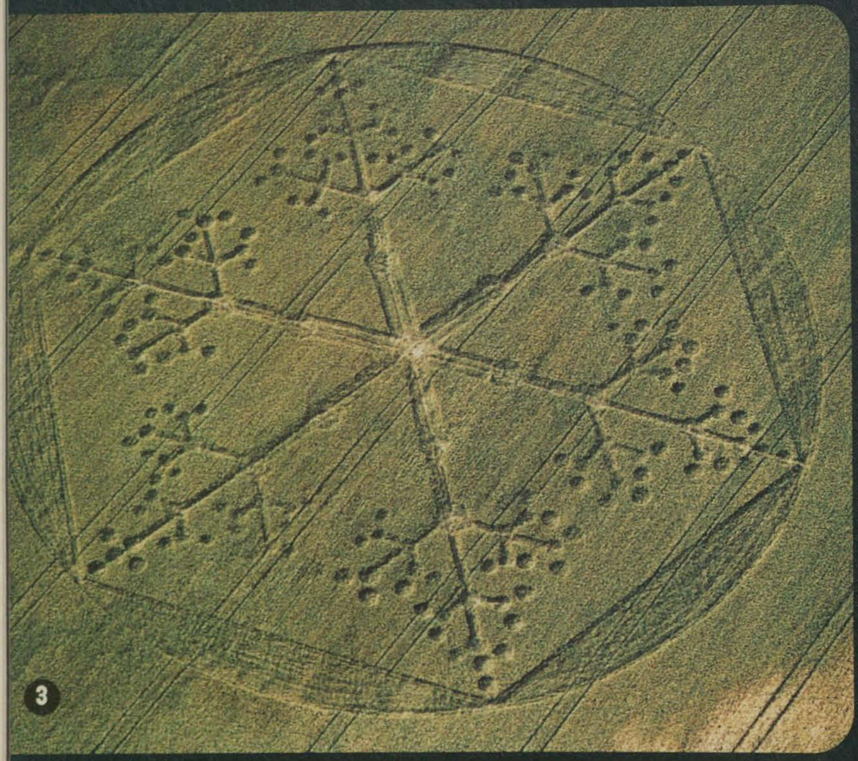
This summer, the circles phenomenon has directly challenged the hoax theorists, producing geometric and fractal patterns which are hard to construct. Even on paper. These patterns have been laid out on a large scale, illegally, faultlessly, during the few hours of summer darkness, often in full sight of main roads... and no one has ever been caught at work.

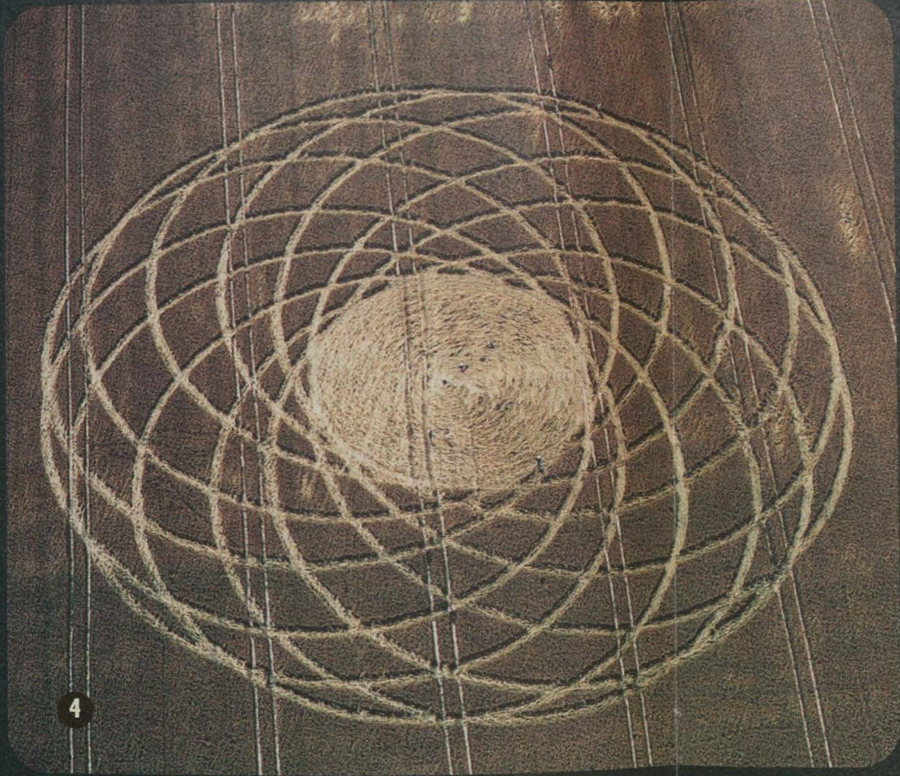
What is the nature of this secretive, resourceful, persistent A-Team? In one of his last articles, Sir Solly Zuckerman, former government adviser on science, argued that crop formations must be human artifacts because they are intelligent designs and the only intelligent beings we know of are ourselves. The great mystery, he said, is who is making them, how and for what purpose? That precisely sums up the problem.

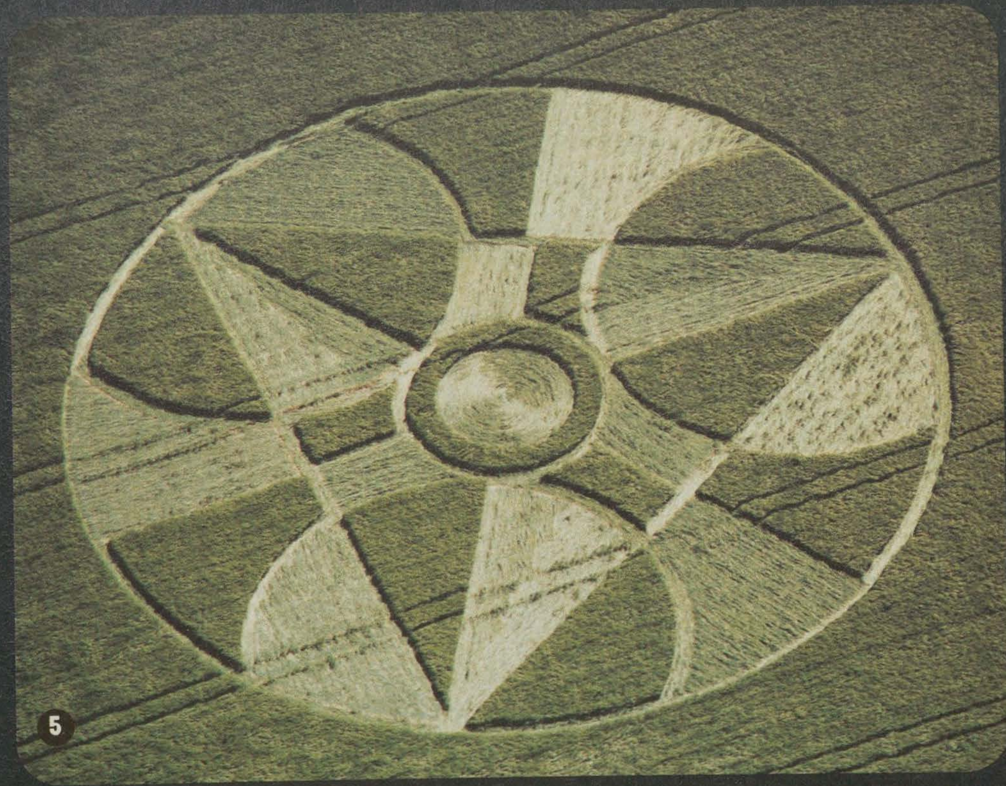
Every year, this increasingly fine form of artistry appears spontaneously in the cereal fields of Wessex. People from all over the world come to observe it and to enjoy the company of other observers. It is mysterious, harmless, beautiful and provocative. Whoever they might be, the artists responsible for it are providing a great deal of entertainment. I look forward to next year and to being amazed and instructed once again by the ever-elusive A-Team.











1. Milk Hill, Alton Barnes, Wiltshire; 8 August; Wheat.

2. Barbury Castle, Wiltshire; 20 April; Oilseed Rape.

3. Stonehenge, Wiltshire; 9 June; Barley.

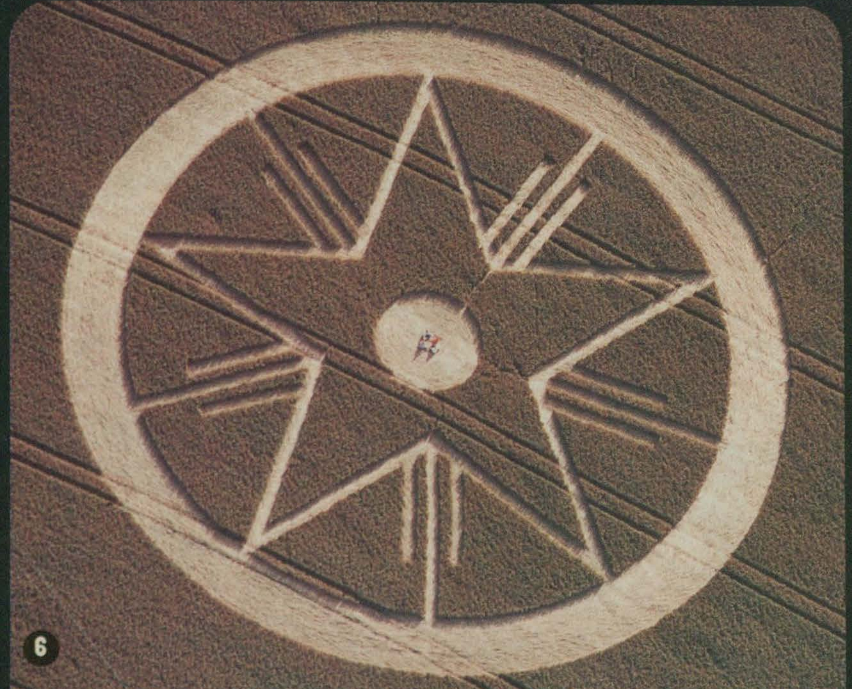
4. Alton Priors, Wiltshire; 11 July; Wheat.

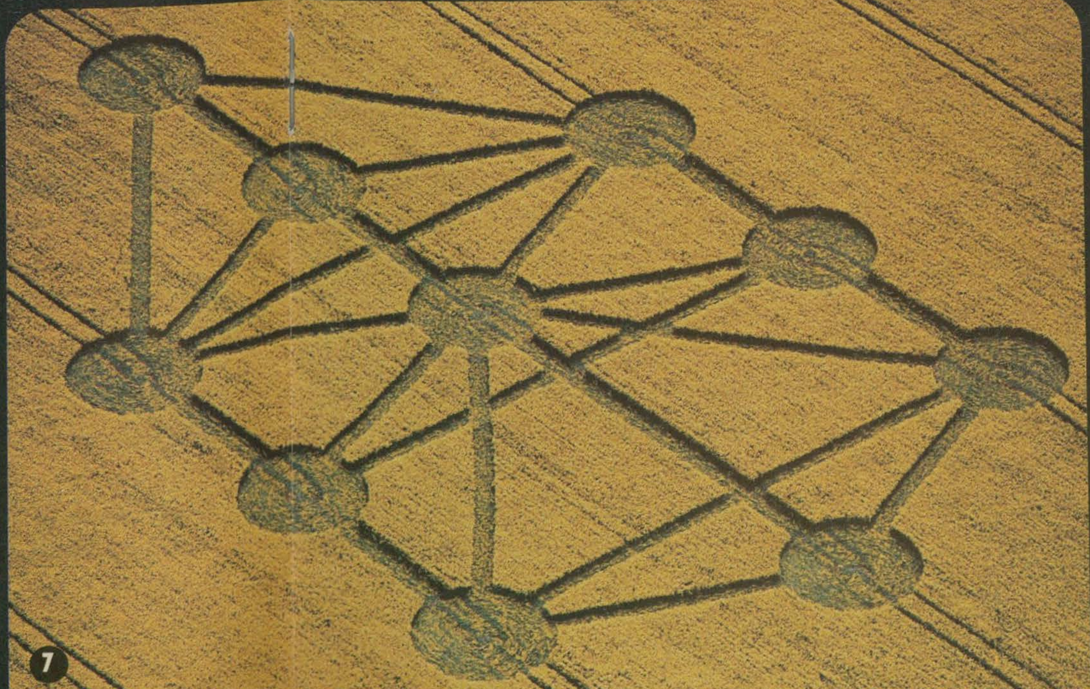
5. Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire; 1 June; Barley.

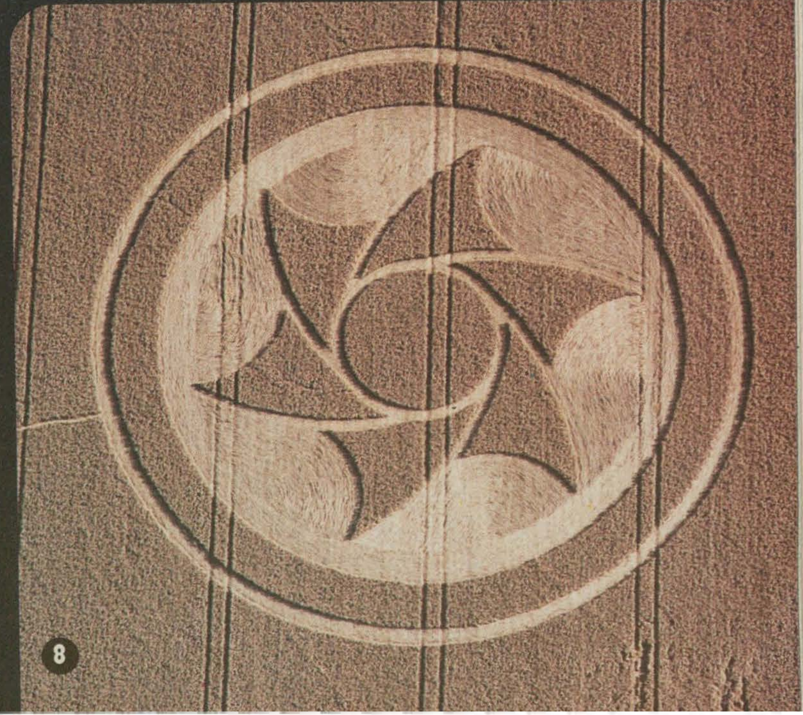
6. Bishops Cannings, Wiltshire; 13 July; Wheat.

7. Barbury Castle, Wiltshire; 3 May; Oilseed Rape.

8. Etchilhampton, Wiltshire; 30 July; Wheat.







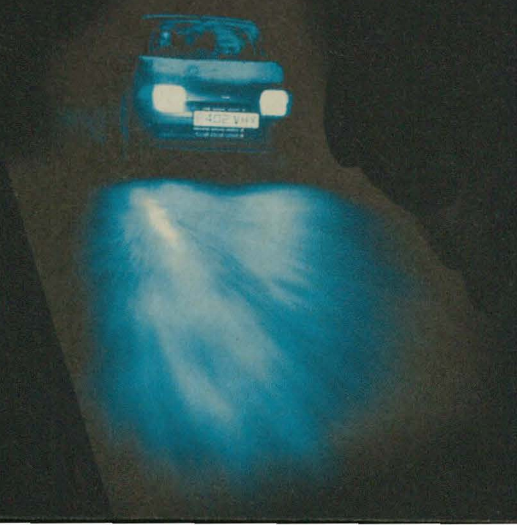
hell's belles

It's midnight, you're driving along a deserted road when someone runs out int front of you... you hit them, but there's no sign of a body. **Sean Tudor** revisits the ghost highway of Blue Bell Hill. Photos by **IDK**

In 1992, a coronation took place in Kent. Well, a coronation of sorts. For it was in the early winter of that year that Blue Bell Hill's legendary ghost girl – in the words of Michael Goss, the 'uncrowned queen of British road ghosts' – chose, finally, to sweep aside the curtains of folklore and rumour and stride onto the stage of reality. In the space of just four weeks, in October and November 1992, three separate motorists reported knocking down a figure that ran into the path of their vehicle late at night on Blue Bell Hill (BBH).

In the two most vivid and dramatic encounters [see 'Hit & Myth' ***FT73:28***], the figure of a young woman stared calmly into the eyes of the driver as she was run over. Subsequent investigation by police at the scene failed to find a victim, or any sign of an accident.

Faced in both cases with a shocked and obviously genuine witness, the police could only conclude – apparently – that these motorists had encountered the famed ghost of Blue Bell Hill, to the evident delight of the media. From the outset, little time was lost linking the sightings to the tragic event that has, over the years, gained popular acceptance as the origin of the haunting: a fatal car crash on 19 November 1965, which claimed the lives of three young women, one a bride-to-be, just hours before the latters wedding.

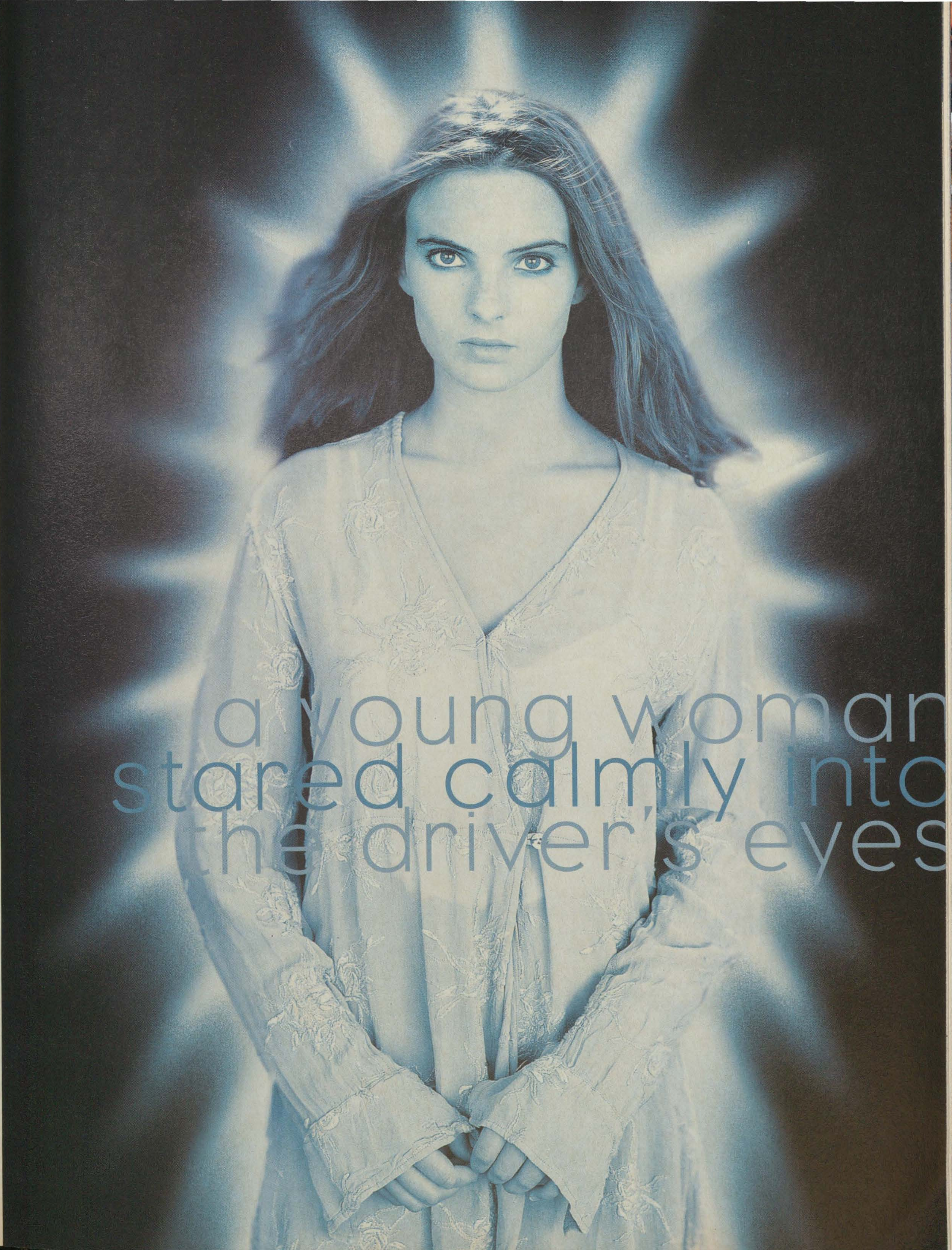


In spite of what the press have claimed for it over the years, there are a host of difficulties in relating such rare and really quite fleeting events at Blue Bell Hill with any confidence to the victims of the 1965 tragedy – or, for that matter, to any other fatal crash that has occurred there in the Hill's recent history. Nevertheless, as the most fitting, not to mention the most widely publicised death-crash of all those that have occurred on Blue Bell Hill over the years[1], it was inevitable that the 1965 tragedy would become the focus for various rumours and/or 'sightings' that have occurred there since.

But even as the press ran off with their favoured interpretation - one based more on traditional or popular notions of the 'cause-and-effect' relationship between violent death and hauntings than credible supporting evidence, events at Blue Bell Hill were moving in an ever more unexpected and bizarre direction...

On the afternoon of 19 January 1993, I received a call from Claire Ogley of *Kent Today*, asking me whether I had ever heard of the ghost of an old woman being sighted on Blue Bell Hill. Answering 'no', I asked her what *she* knew.

The menacing witch-like apparition she described sounded too bizarre, too fairytale-like to be true – except that a family, very much frightened by the experience, had come forward to say that it had happened to them. ▶



a young woman stared calmly into the driver's eyes

FORTEAN PICTURE LIBRARY

HAUNTED HIGHWAY? Blue Bell Hill – site of the phantom accidents

▶ The Maiden family's experience had taken place at around 12.45am on 6 January on their homeward journey following a night out. The account given here differs in minor detail from the original *Kent Today* version.[2] It was, for instance, a clear, cold night; observational conditions were therefore ideal, far from the foggy conditions described in the newspaper account. The location also differed, the incident having taken place on a dark, remnant stretch of the Old Chatham Road, the former A229 and main route between Maidstone and Chatham before the construction of the current dual carriageway in the early 1970s, and which now, as a feeder road, runs parallel for a short distance before joining the faster route further uphill. The same spot (or one very near to it) – significantly – had, in the past, featured in at least one account involving the ghost-girl.

There were five people in the car: Angela Maiden, her husband Malcolm (who was driving), Mrs Maiden's mother, her young daughter and a family friend. The daughter was asleep, but everyone else witnessed the event.

The family had come up from Aylesford, turning northward onto the Old Chatham Road at the Lower Bell crossroads (a location, again, that features as a reputed 'picking up' point for the ghostly girl hitch-hiker in the early history of the case). Some 300 yards (275m) further up, at Kit's Coty Cottage, the road makes a sweeping bend to the right. As the car started to turn into the bend, the Maidens saw a figure start across the road from right to left in front of them. Mr Maiden immediately slowed down.

"At first I thought it was [somebody in] a fancy dress costume," said Mrs Maiden. "It was wearing a long dress, very old-fashioned, that stopped mid-calf. It had a tartan shawl round the top and a bonnet with a brim."

Mrs Maiden remembers remarking to her husband: "Somebody's playing a prank."

But then the car's headlights fully illuminated the figure. "It was like when you trap a rabbit in your headlights. It stayed dazed, hunched over without looking at us. As we got alongside it we were almost at a standstill. All of a sudden it was 4ft [1.2m] away from the car. It rounded on us really quickly and I saw the face. It was totally horrific... very small, black beady eyes. It was like a wizened face. The worst thing of all was the mouth. It opened and [it] was like an empty black hole.

"My mother was sitting directly behind me. At the same time I remember we said, 'Oh, my God.'"

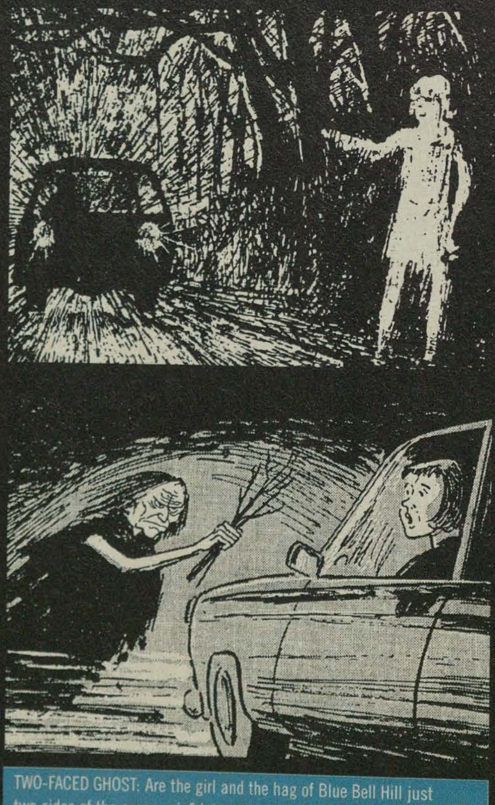
With the figure's mouth agape, a hissing sound filled the car, even through the closed windows. The figure was carrying a spray of twigs, which it raised and shook threateningly. Mrs Maiden quickly engaged the car's central locking, instinctively bringing her arm up to protect herself.

With all this going on, Mr Maiden, panicking, was trying to get the car in gear to get away. As he did so, and started to pull away, Mrs Maiden's mother turned to watch the figure, which started toward the nearside kerb, where it seemed to vanish.

"My daughter woke up feeling a terrible atmosphere in the car. I couldn't talk; all you could hear was everyone breathing.

"I've never felt evil before and I've never been so terrified. I felt as if I had looked into the eyes of the Devil."

brief encounters with ghosts are one thing, but such a nightmarish apparition is bound to raise suspicions of hoaxing. If so, it was a remarkably effective one: Mrs Maiden was unable to sleep for days after the experience and remained traumatised for a year afterward. She told *Kent Today* that at such close range the car's occupants would have been able to tell if it had been wearing a mask or make-up. Neither did a thorough police search of the area following the incident yield any evidence of foul play. A spokesman could only warn that if it had been a hoax, the person(s) concerned were putting themselves and others at risk.


(TOP) EVENING POST; (BOTTOM) KENT TODAY

TWO-FACED GHOST: Are the girl and the hag of Blue Bell Hill just two sides of the same coin? International folklore would suggest so

However, the response to *Kent Today*'s appeal for more stories and my own inquiries were to suggest a less reassuring conclusion. A few days later, linked to a report detailing my own inability to explain the latest sightings[3], were accounts of two other parties claiming to have had past encounters with the creature that would come to be variously called the 'hag', the 'crone' or the 'witch'. A third reached me privately.

Taxi-driver Colin Eacott claimed he saw a similar figure, dressed in old-fashioned clothes, on the southbound carriageway of the A229 at Blue Bell Hill in the winter about two years earlier, while driving 'four lads' to a nightspot location outside of Maidstone. Again, it was thought that the figure in a black cloak, with long hat and stick, stood in the scrub there in the pouring rain was someone in fancy dress until, in apparent reply to the youths' taunting, it disappeared.

A far more impressive account involved another family, whom I shall call the Rayburns, who encountered an uncannily similar figure to that reported by the Maidens. In fact, the account is a virtual carbon copy of the Maidens' experience, with the exception that the figure, encountered at the same bend in the road and at around the same time of night (just after midnight), wore a light-coloured top and appeared to be beckoning to them with what appeared to be a posy of heather as they approached and then passed by. And it had happened on 5 January – the night *before*.

Mr and Mrs Rayburn and their two children were deeply affected by the experience. Mr Rayburn, himself unable to sleep, telephoned Chatham police station at 3am to ascertain the outcome of their predictably fruitless search of the area.

The sightings of the old woman inevitably gave rise to suggestions – and not for the first time – that Blue Bell Hill is haunted by more than one ghost. Researcher David Thomas, who has also looked at the case, heard that she might be 'Paraffin Lynn', an old woman apparently fitting the description who, it seemed, used to wander across the dual carriageway in the region of the modern (Shell) petrol station. Other versions hold her to be a gypsy woman who sold pegs, or a former Blue Bell Hill village resident of whom local children learned to be wary. Which is all very well. However, this particular figure – a frightening caricature – seems to resemble more the kind of non-human entity depicted in folklore.

And it is to folklore that we must turn to gain any kind of understanding of what is *really* happening at Blue Bell Hill. In 'Hit & Myth', it was demonstrated how 1992's 'spectral jaywalker' encounters obey the conventions set out in the phantom hitch-hiker (PHH) folk version that serves as the foundation of the case. It was also shown how the same PHH/jaywalker 'script' is repeated around the country and indeed the world with an identical pattern of events being reported over and again by reliable witnesses: of figures rushing into the paths of vehicles, and/or of disappearing hitch-hikers (which feature in three named-witness accounts relating to BBH in my possession), which suggests that it has less to do with any specific case and its accepted explanation – like Blue Bell Hill, for instance, and the 1965 tragedy – but, at the same time, more than purely 'human' factors such as imagination and hoaxing.

at Blue Bell Hill, we find the encounters with the old woman occurring at the same locations, within the same time band (generally 11pm-1am, straddling the not infrequently reported time of midnight, the 'witching hour' – a time period in which many similar encounters occur), and in broad accordance with the behaviour of the ghost-girl. In the Rayburns' case, the figure, like the ghost-girl, 'attracts the attention' of passing vehicles by standing in the middle of the road, but instead of hitching a lift and vanishing from the vehicle, or running into its path, it induces a deliberate and more profound horror through its onslaught of the vehicle's occupants.

It shouldn't be surprising, then, to find that the old woman, like the girl 'accident victim', should have its hitch-hiker counterpart. Indeed, the old woman and the girl could be regarded as the pedestrian counterparts of the PHH.

In 1942, American folklorists Richard Beardsley and Rosalie Hankey formulated a four-part categorisation of PHH types from a sample collected from across the United States. Briefly, they are: Versions A & C, which describe the 'home'-seeking habits of the young, fair-haired woman in white, which, as the most common descriptive form, we can readily equate with BBH's ghost-girl. Less well known are the other two versions. Version D (which will also be seen to have some relevance), based on the basket-laden old woman in an Hawaiian account, is defined as a local deity, in this case the goddess Pelee. Version B, however, is said to take the form of a darkly prophetic old woman, frequently attired in dark clothing, who characteristically issues dire forecasts before vanishing.[4]

In his book *The Evidence for Phantom Hitch-Hikers*, Michael Goss cites, as his primary example of Version B, a German case from 1975 that involved a 'weird-looking old woman' in black who hitched a lift at *midnight* from an unsuspecting businessman, which is itself strongly reminiscent of the German folktale of the little basket-carrying old woman who would climb uninvited onto farmers' wagons as they drove home alone at night.[5]

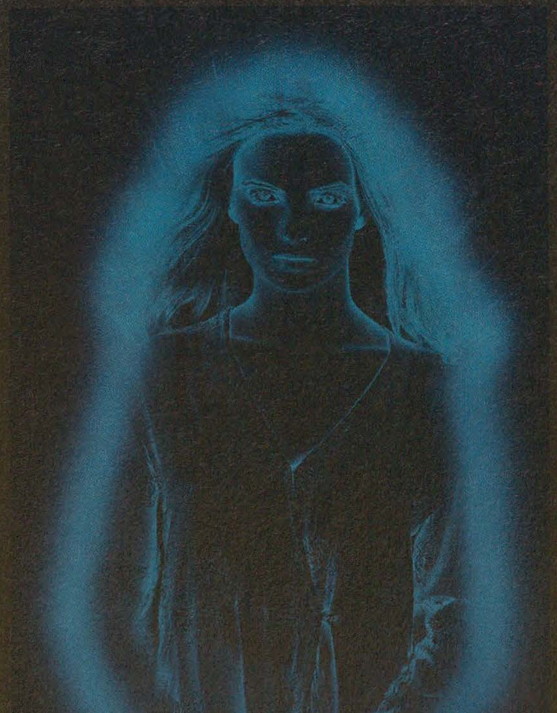
And 'she' crops up again and again elsewhere, in folklore and 'fact' – for instance, in a figure said to haunt the lanes around Longridge in Lancashire. In this case, the old woman seen hobbling along in her *shawl and bonnet*, and carrying a basket under her arm, is said to be the masquerade of a 'boggart' (or 'burgh ghuist', meaning 'town ghost'). Here, the old woman is said to walk quietly alongside persons trying to pass her, even listening politely to their conversation. Suddenly, though, she would turn on her companion, revealing the absence of a head inside her bonnet. Her head then leaps from the basket, 'shrieking with demonic laughter' as it chases the terrified victim down the lane.[6]

I felt as if I'd
looked into the
eyes of the Devil

With their precise reflection in the PHH folk versions, and their noted similarities in behaviour, it should be apparent that Blue Bell Hill's girl-in-white and the old woman are not distinct entities that just happen to haunt the same spots, at similar times, and in broadly similar manner, but are facets of the *same* phenomenon. This duality (or polarity) in form – young girl and old hag, light and dark, benign and hostile – is plainly demonstrated elsewhere, in the misty realms of folklore and myth (where the two, while sometimes appearing singly, are frequently portrayed as expressions of the same character, frequently hostile toward or beguiling of lonely travellers), and in a case that hints at what the Blue Bell Hill encounters may really be about.

Following the eruption of Mount St Helens in May 1980, police in Washington State (USA) received reports concerning a 'ghastly old woman', who prophesied a further upheaval that was to occur a month afterward. In later encounters, in which the predicted disaster was postponed until the following October, the hitch-hiking phantom took the form of an attractive female in a white gown.[7]

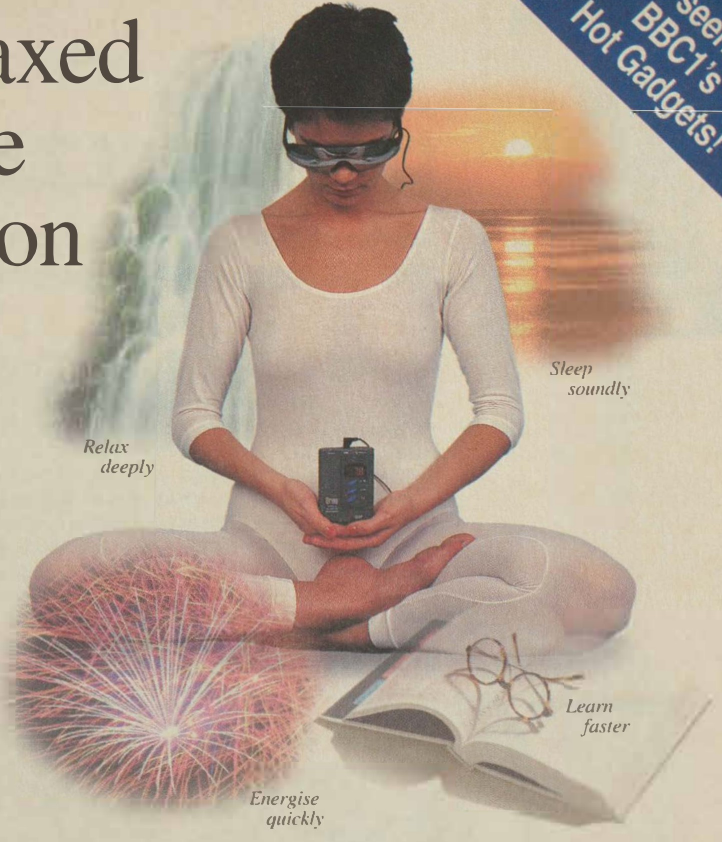
Folklore, as I have suggested, is replete with supernatural characters bearing more than a passing similarity to the two aspects of the Blue Bell Hill 'ghost'. The best match is found in Celtic and pre-Celtic mythology, in the *Cailleach* of the Scottish



Feel profoundly relaxed in minutes – with the NEW MindLab Orion

As seen on BBC1's Hot Gadgets!

Tune in and turn on to shut out everyday pressures – and unleash the natural resources of your mind – *writes Chris Payne*



Dazzling patterns of colour swirled in front of my closed eyes, and gyrating shapes soared across my visual field as hypnotic rhythmic tones caressed my ears.

All I'd done was put on the liteframes and headphones, pressed a few buttons on the MindLab Orion's compact console and lay back with my eyes closed.

As the patterns and sounds slowed down I felt my mind sink deeper and deeper, and it seemed as if I was rolling back through space.

Clear your mind in minutes

Ten minutes later I re-emerged – relaxed, alert and with no mind chatter. The serene state lasted for the next two hours. This was my first experience of using the remarkable MindLab Orion.

It may at first sound like a way out Spielberg creation, but the MindLab Orion is far from science fiction. This is science fact, tried and tested to help you cope with life's stresses and strains.

Using light and sound patterns matched to your own natural rhythm, the machine can induce a state of relaxation, and even aid learning.

Far from being futuristic, the MindLab Orion is based on ancient techniques blended with sophisticated technology.

In 2000BC Ptolemy noted that sunlight flickering through the spokes of a rotating wheel caused fascinating visual patterns and a feeling of euphoria.

Slip on the liteframes and headphones, press a few buttons on the MindLab Orion and you'll feel deeply relaxed within 15 minutes

UK research validates the technology

Then in the late 1940s a British neuroscientist, W. Gray Walter, measured the effects of an electronic strobe using an EEG, which monitors brainwave activity.

He found that rhythmic, flashing lights altered activity across the whole cortex, producing trance-like states of profound relaxation and vivid imagery.

Since then, a series of independent studies have confirmed Walter's findings. Research now suggests that machines using light and sound can dramatically reduce stress.

Change mental states easily

Benefits include deep relaxation within minutes, improved learning ability and enjoyment of music, increased alertness, enhanced ability to visualise new goals, and better sleep at night.

The user of the MindLab Orion chooses the state of consciousness that he or she wishes to obtain, and is lulled by a rainbow array of colours and rhythms into the chosen state of awareness.

Just press a few buttons and you can choose to relax, sleep, visualise, energise or learn. Lie back, close your eyes and let the kaleidoscopic light patterns and rhythmic tones gradually shift your consciousness.

The press raved about the original MindLab

"The MindLab has received rave reviews from both the scientific community and the public... After a few minutes the dazzling spectacle winds down into a deeper state of consciousness." – *New Scotsman*

"The systems reliably produce visual effects and relaxation... the experience resembles the closing sequences of 2001: A Space Odyssey." – *New Scientist*

"The MindLab produces a feeling of total inner calm where once there was chaos. The technology of tomorrow really is with us today." – *Fit Body magazine*

"The machine really does need to be experienced to be believed." – *Computer Life*

"The MindLab gives you hundreds of different methods, via amazing sounds, music and light displays, of achieving Nirvana." – *London Evening Standard*

"The MindLab really works!" – *Ms London*

Here's what the testers said on Hot Gadgets!

Said tester Anuj Nayor on **BBC1's Hot Gadgets:** "I thought the MindLab Orion was a top gadget. I felt perky and alert. The first program I tried was the sleep one. I went into the deepest sleep in ages. I was *so* late for work the next day."

James Mayor, a medical student, commented "I feel quite relaxed. That exam: sorted!"

Find out why thousands of people in the UK and one million worldwide are using this technology – ring 01625 502602 for your FREE brochure TODAY!

LifeTOOLS

Dept FT 36
Freepost SK1852
Macclesfield
SK10 2YE
Tel: 01625 502602
(manned 24 hours, 7 days a week)

Yes! Please send me a FREE MindLab Orion brochure

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss etc.) ________

Address ________

____

Postcode ________

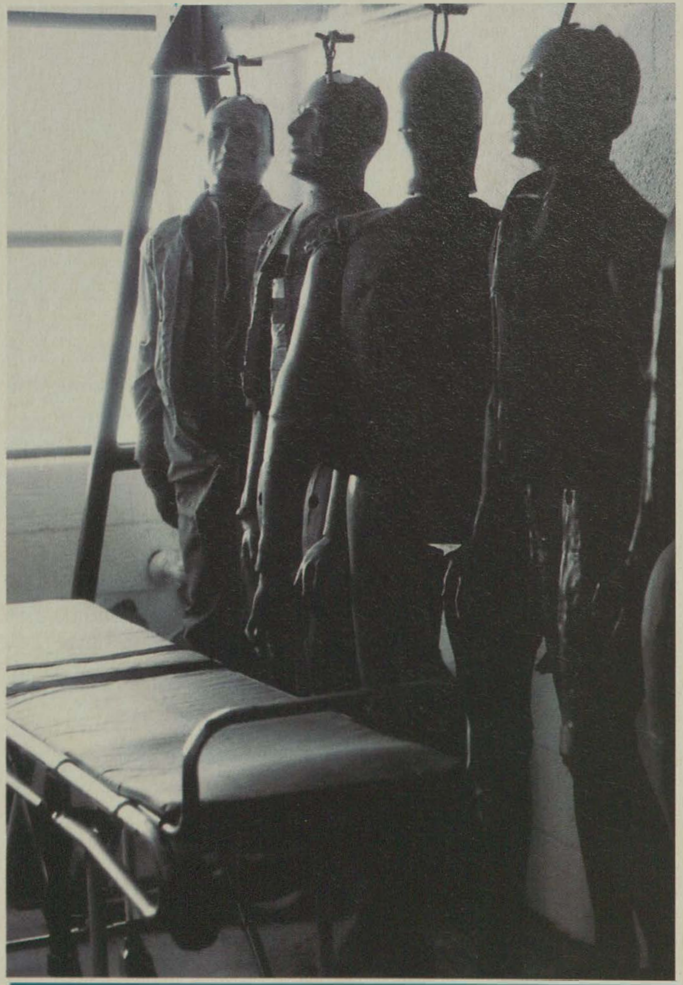
Home tel. no. ________

SAUCERHEADS

ROSWELLZAPOPPIN!

Maybe you've had enough of the Roswell's 'did it or didn't it crash' debate, but BRUCE WRIGHT argues that Forteans and folklorists should be interested in the genesis of a myth

Greetings from the land of Roswellmania! Saucer awareness has soared in the US over the past few months, prompted by the 50th anniversaries of the Kenneth Arnold sighting and the 'Roswell Incident'. Roswell's anniversary festival briefly reigned as America's foremost silly-season story, providing a welcome break to the journalistic doldrums of summer [see ***FT103:32***]. A gaggle of new books and articles appeared with various explanations to the conundrum: 'What Really Happened At Roswell?' – usually in a mutually exclusive way, of course. And for a while at least, UFOs were attracting the attention of the nation's 'respectable' media in a way not seen for decades.



POPPERFOTO/REUTER

CRASH TEST: Anthropomorphic dummies are claimed to be the Roswell 'aliens' by the US Air Force

Saucerhead glee was only magnified by the 12 June release of the US Air Force's optimistically entitled *The Roswell Report: Case Closed*. The report speculated that stories of alien bodies at Roswell in 1947 were engendered by cloudy memories of "test dummies [..] carried aloft by US Air Force high-altitude balloons" in the 1950s. Rather remarkably, this time-travelling dummies theory was greeted by hoots of derision from press and public alike, in a publicity gaffe resembling a milder version of the 'swamp gas' incident some 30 years ago. In a single stroke, the Air Force might have given Roswell conspiracy theories a greater boost than the combined efforts of all the pro-Roswell ufologists.

The only sour note for the Roswell camp came in May, with the apostasy of ufologist Kent Jeffrey. Jeffrey, coordinator of the International Roswell Initiative (IRI), no longer believes an alien ship crashed at Roswell and has outlined the reasons for his change of heart in a lengthy manifesto.[1]

It was as if Loyola had become a Lutheran. "Kent Jeffrey marches no longer with us on our way towards the truth," sniffed German IRI officials Joachim Koch and Hans-Juergen Kyborg. More apoplectic was Ed Komarek of Operation Right to Know (ORTK), an organisation best known for its sparsely attended protest marches against the UFO conspiracy. "I think this is all part of a containment operation," Komarek hinted darkly; his call to arms of mid-June, entitled *Debunker Kent Jeffery* [sic]: *How Do We Stop Him!* demands largely unspecified action against Jeffrey's "brilliant treacherous move" in order to head off a torrent of negative publicity.

Jeffrey's article provides a number of arguments against the extraterrestrial interpretation of Roswell, some of them rather tenuous. He amply skewers the shifting testimony supplied by some leading figures of the Roswell legend, but also states that "I have always felt that a UFO would never crash". Those of us inclined toward misty occultism might agree, but it seems a pretty barren assumption given what we know about the agency behind UFOs (hint: nothing). He stresses recently declassified Air Force memoranda from the late Forties in which military officials bemoan their lack of a saucer specimen for study. Moreover, Jeffrey has friends who served with the 509th Bomb Group during the 'incident' – they never heard about any alien bodies and Jeffrey believes that, secret or no, airmen would have talked among themselves about the discovery. He also notes that the debris described – foil-like material, short beams, a plastic-like substance – sounds suspiciously like materials used in the ML-307 radar reflector carried by Mogul balloons.

In all, however, Jeffrey's article brings little that is new to the Roswell debate other than the fervor of a recent convert. Ironically, pro-Roswell researcher Kevin Randle did a better job of summarising the numerous contradictions and confabulations of the story in his book *The Randle Report*. Always the most conscientious of the Roswellians, Randle mounted the first serious response to Jeffrey's article, dissecting it rather neatly.[2] Randle is more sanguine than Jeffrey about military men's ability to keep their mouths shut, and notes that Brigadier General Thomas DuBose testified that Strategic Air Command specifically ordered absolute silence on the Roswell matter. Randle also has little time for the declassified documents, since a secret of this magnitude would be tightly compartmentalised.

In the event, ORTK's fear that Jeffrey would damage the Roswell publicity groundswell proved groundless. Jeffrey and Randle appeared on a July episode of ABC's *Nightline*, in a debate rendered pointless by the moderator's pompous cluelessness. And within days, Roswell was swept from the airwaves by a different sort of space opera, the Pathfinder Mars mission. But it will return, never doubt it...

Many Forteans profess themselves bored with saucers in general and Roswell in particular, but I fail to see how anyone with even a passing interest in folklore can fail to be fascinated by these events. More than ever, it seems clear that a new myth is being born, right before our eyes, at the misty intersection of belief and that rubbery thing we call reality. I think Charles Fort would have loved this.

FOOTNOTES

[1] Point your browser at **http://www.roswell.org/**

[2] see **http://www.ufomind.com/ufo/updates/1997/jun/m17-016.shtml**

BRUCE WRIGHT IS A PUZZLED FORTEAN AND POP-CULTURE HISTORIAN LIVING IN AUSTIN, TEXAS. *NIGHTWALKERS*, HIS BOOK, WAS PUBLISHED IN 1995 BY TAYLOR PUBLISHING

ALIEN HORIZONS

LoFLYTE ALL STARS

Two close encounters with a triangular flying object have focused attention on LoFLYTE reconnaissance planes, but JAMES EASTON thinks we're getting ahead of ourselves

On 7 June 1996, at about 6 pm, an Aer Lingus jet had a very close encounter, some 9,000ft (2,750m) above Stevenage, about 30 miles (48km) north of London. The aircraft was en route from Dublin to London's Stansted airport, when the pilots were forced to take evasive action after spotting an unidentified object hurtling towards them. The object flashed past the right-hand side of the jet seconds later, only some 200–300 yards (180–275m) away and 100ft (30m) below.

Both pilots reported seeing what looked to be a red aircraft with blue and white stripes – one of the pilots believing it might have been of military origin. This possibility was dismissed after the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) comprehensively ruled out a Red Arrows Hawk, the similar Gnat, or an unregistered, ex-military aircraft.

Although an extensive search of radar recordings and radio transcripts failed to produce corroborative evidence, the CAA conceded that the pilots saw something and agreed in some detail on their descriptions. The identity of the intruder was, however, "impossible to assess" and "likely to remain a mystery".

There are obvious parallels between this incident and the 6 January 1995 airmiss near Manchester airport. On that occasion, First Officer Mark Stuart "instinctively ducked" as a wedge-shaped object seemed destined to collide head-on with the British Airways Boeing 737. The unknown object streaked past the aircraft's right-hand side, so fast that it could only be described as dark coloured, with what might have been a black stripe visible along its side. Commercial Air Transport Airmiss Report No. 2/95, affirmed: "There was no known traffic in the vicinity at the time and no radar contacts were seen."

As the Aer Lingus encounter also featured the absence of corroborative radar tracks, the CAA concluded: "This meant that members could feel reasonably certain that what had been seen was not an æroplane."

Yet the previously-published Manchester airmiss report noted: "The lack of a radar contact is not necessarily unusual if weather suppressers are in use on radar, particularly if the object generates a poor radar response. In these conditions the radar can interpret a non-transponding (primary) contact as weather, and therefore disregard it." In either event, neither bore the hallmarks of a conventional aircraft.

One candidate cited for the Aer Lingus incident is the LoFLYTE (Low Observable Flight Test Experiment) hypersonic aircraft, a triangular-shaped 'waverider'. A revolutionary design enables it to 'surf' on a high-pressure shock-wave field, generated as the aircraft travels faster than the speed of sound. When a prototype was unveiled on 2 August last year, the LoFLYTE was warmly received in some quarters as a likely explanation for UFO sightings around the globe.

In a widely reported article, Maurice Chittenden wrote in *The Sunday Times*: "Since 1990 there have been unexplained reports of flat, wedge-shaped objects seen by pilots near air force bases in California and as far afield as Belgium."

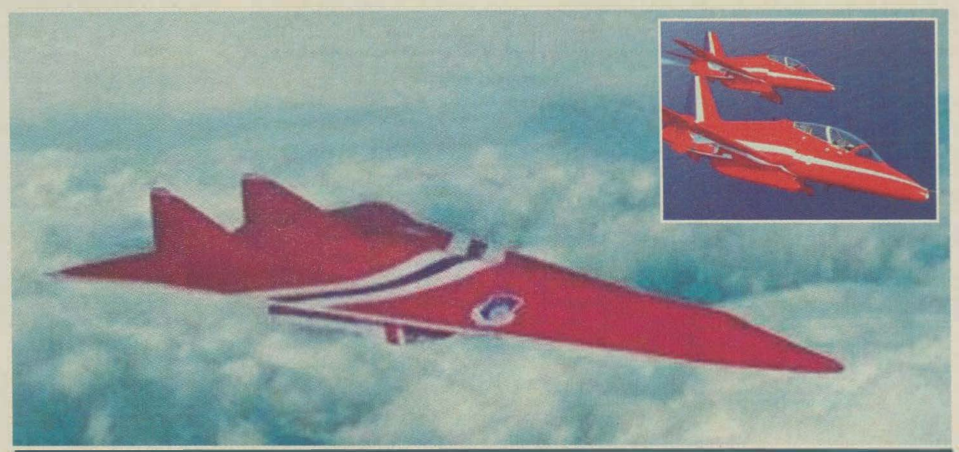
The notoriously sceptical Mr Chittenden now believed that "those UFO sightings might have a simple explanation after all: a secret, triangular-shaped aircraft that can fly at more than twice the speed of Concorde". This sounded promising and Belgian TV news reports announced the long-awaited explanation for the 1989/90 flap.

There is, however, one point which appears to have been swept aside in the enthusiasm to embrace the LoFLYTE theory. The only LoFLYTE which had rolled off the production lines was an 8ft 4in (2.5m) remotely-piloted model.

After the unveiling, Topher Kersting, Marketing Coordinator for Accurate Automation Corporation, a prime contractor for the joint NASA and US Air Force project, confirmed: "The next version, pending the successful completion of the forthcoming flight test, is intended to be a 23ft [7m] unmanned remotely piloted vehicle capable of hypersonic flight. What is beyond that is anybody's guess."

On 16 December, the conceptual 100in (2.5m) model had its maiden flight at Mojave Airfield, California, and remained airborne for 34 seconds, reaching an altitude of about 150ft (46m) before experiencing flight-control difficulties and an undignified landing. Speculation abounds that a full-size version is already in operation, but it is at odds with such evidence.

Kersting also confirmed that the photograph released by Accurate Automation Corporation was a computer generated Photoshop™ composite, created by a colleague and himself. "Just because you see a picture on a cloud background doesn't mean that the plane has flown," he cautioned.



ACCURATE AUTOMATION CORPORATION

IN PLANE VIEW: The LoFLYTE æroplane – a false-suspect in two UFO cases; [inset] the Red Arrows – ruled out

In the United States, the Center for the Study of Intelligence recently published a newly declassified document entitled *A Die-Hard Issue: CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90.*

Author Gerald Haines, the National Reconnaissance Office historian, claims that many UFO sightings could be explained by the CIA's top secret U-2 spy-plane. Checking with the Agency's U-2 Project Staff in Washington, Air Force investigators were able to confirm this, but to protect the spy-plane's secrecy were forced to explain the sightings as natural phenomena.

The Royal Air Force and the US Air Force are represented on the Joint Airmiss Working Group, which investigates incidents in UK airspace. If a UK airmiss did involve a known, highly classified aircraft, could its existence be acknowledged, or like the U-2, would its continued secrecy override all other considerations? It seems all we can deduce with some certainty is that the LoFLYTE project isn't likely to be responsible for any UFO reports.

At least, not yet.

JAMES EASTON CONTRIBUTES TO A VAST RANGE OF UFO PUBLICATIONS AND HAS WORLDWIDE RESEARCH CONTACTS IN THE FIELD OF UFOLOGY

IT'S HAIRY ON THE OUTSIDE

If you're an exotic animal, be it big cat or emu, residing in captivity, then you're best off staying there, writes LOREN COLEMAN – because if you get out, you'll probably be shot

The headline of the 17 June 1997 edition of the Charlotte (North Carolina) *Observer* shouted: CLEVELAND COUNTY FARMER KILLS A 45-POUND AFRICAN WILDCAT. The story went on to note that Josephine Huffman was certain her husband, Ted, had bagged a leopard that charged at him from a shed on their farm the day before.

Later, the cat was identified as a serval, an attractive African feline, and the inevitable allegation that it had escaped from the nearby Safe Haven for Endangered Animals (SHEA) Park was denied by the park's owners, David and Eric Holm. They said that they gave away the park's serval in March 1997, but photos taken at a Shelby exhibition clearly show David Holm with his serval on 17 May. Later, at the time of the Huffman shooting, Holm revised his story, saying that the animal was given away on 20 May to a Georgia man. The Holms have refused to make any further comment since. The US Department of Agriculture is currently investigating the serval shooting to determine who owned the animal and whether it escaped from SHEA Park, recently described by the US Fish and Wildlife department as little more than a roadside zoo.[1]

This has been quite a spring for killing and capturing escaped animals. On 28 April, near Oklahoma City, a rare Persian leopard was killed by a SWAT team. The cat had mauled to death a 52-year-old woman, the mother of one of the workers at the Oakhill Center for Rare and Endangered Species. The seven-year-old female cat lunged at its gate, bending the mechanism enough to let the gate swing open. The cat then dragged the woman's body into another area, where it was discovered by the woman's son. Sheriff's deputies advised residents to stay indoors and escorted a school bus through the area until the leopard was killed in an ambush on its return to its pen.

On 1 May, after a week on the lam from the Charlotte (NC) Metro Zoo, a chimpanzee, Sydney, was recaptured. The 150lb (68kg) ape had pried open his bars to escape. The owners of the zoo tried to lure him back using candy and even his caged mate as lures. He was captured, finally, in a schoolteacher's backyard after she had thrown apples at him.

The next day, Fortean Andrew Dennis passed on to me a radio report about a White Rhino shot in Cumbria. It had escaped from a Wildlife Park near Dalton-in-Furness and police were unable to calm it. It was shot dead as it was endangering traffic on a main road.

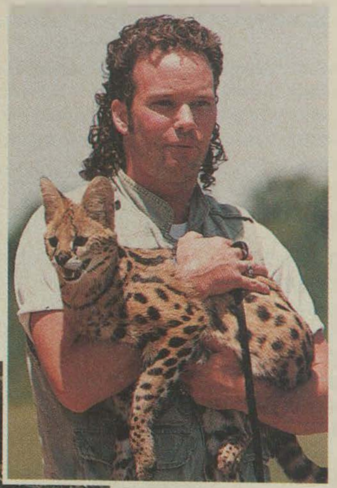
Then, early in June, at least 16 emus broke free from their enclosure in Moody, Missouri, and ran wild until they were caught or killed. Hiver Gravely said that the birds, which are native to Australia, stampeded because of a thunderstorm and what she described as a "mating frenzy".

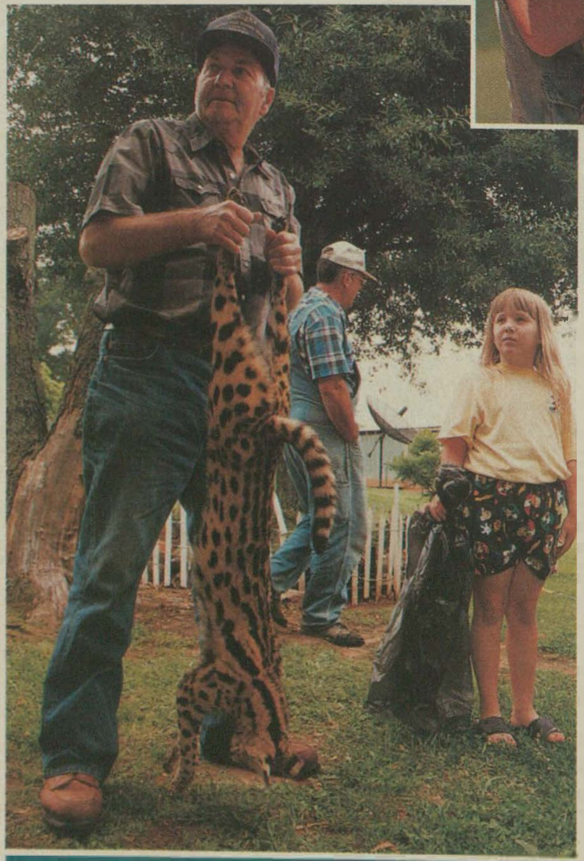
These stories demonstrate what happens to big exotic animals that escape from captivity – they are usually caught or killed. This is very important to remember, considering how often 'escaped animals', whether from circus trains or zoos, are advanced as the explanation for strange footprints, mystery animal sightings and unusual livestock deaths.

In the real world, big cats, for example, once escaped, are eventually caught or killed. Escapees are usually someone's property and worth big bucks. They also scare and generally cause considerable anxiety in the community until they are 'removed'. Real escaped animals are also likely to attack people or livestock. For these reasons their escape is not ignored and neither the authorities nor the general public will allow them to lie low: safaris are organised; hunters are hired; helicopters and posses mobilised.

But often, as in some of these recent cases, the escaped animal returns to familiar territory, for a variety of reasons, and is killed or captured. It might be trying to get back to what it remembers as a 'safe' place – I've talked about this with animal handlers and zoo keepers over many years and it's a recognised phenomenon.

The unusual thing about one or two of these recent cases is the dramatic nature of some of the details, not the inevitability of the final result. In the USA we've seen emus, a rhino, a leopard, a chimp and a serval... all exotic escapees and all recaptured or killed.





BOTH PHOTOS: LEE MCLEOD/THE SHELBY STAR

SERVAL IT RIGHT: [above] Ted Huffman with the serval he shot on 16 June 1997, [above right] David Holm and his serval on 17 May

---

FOOTNOTE

[1] Thanks to Mark Hall for alerting me to this story.

LOREN COLEMAN IS A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, CRYPTOZOOLOGIST AND THE AUTHOR OF *CURIOUS ENCOUNTERS* (1985)

Advertisement

IT'S ALMOST UNCANNY WHAT THIS BOOK CAN DO FOR YOU!

Test Its Amazing Powers

ABSOLUTELY FREE!

What is the unique influence of this amazing book? From where comes this almost uncanny power to help the timid to a new self-confident personality — the unsuccessful to positions of importance and authority — the sick in their fight back to normal health?

It seems incredible! Yet timid, colourless people can simply read this book — and instantly gain courage that performs seeming miracles. Downhearted, frustrated people can scan its pages — and quickly begin to overcome their handicaps. Men and women from every walk of life feel a new vital power surging within them — an irresistible force leading them to undreamed-of success.

SECRET REVEALED

An amazing book! A book that can open exciting, new horizons to everyone who turns its pages. The whole secret lies in this simple fact: everyone has sleeping within himself tremendous unused energy — extraordinary personal powers capable of astonishing development. All you need to do is to release these dormant forces — grasp the full sweep of their amazing powers — then make them ready to do your bidding.

And that is exactly what this unique book can do for you. It shows you how to tap this vast storehouse of the power within. It explains how to release your own vital power — how to magnify it — how to harness it for practical use. The effect is almost immediate. Self-consciousness changes to self-confidence.

WHAT THIS FREE BOOK WILL SHOW YOU

- How to succeed at your work!
- How to enjoy vibrant health!
- How to achieve self-confidence!
- How to develop your memory!
- How to relax!
- How to master your emotions!
- How to attain domestic happiness!
- How to realise your ambitions!
- How to win popularity!
- How to build a dynamic personality!

Timidity gives way to courage. Humility retreats before self-reliance. You gain poise that commands attention.

FREE BOOK

You must see this amazing book for yourself! Test its influence on your own personality. Send for it today — NOW! It's free! There's no obligation whatever. No stamp is needed. Simply return the coupon below or write to: The Realization System (Dept. FER 37), FREEPOST, Bowden Hall, Marple, Stockport.

To: The Realization System (Dept FER 37), FREEPOST, Bowden Hall, Marple, Stockport.
Please send me your free Realization Book.
NAME...
Mr / Mrs / Miss
ADDRESS ....
.................................Postcode.............................
No stamp needed in U.K.

BITE ME

WATCH OUT FOR MANEATERS

Despite the media outcry over the Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield ear incident, it's not that unusual – every 40 seconds one human being bites another, writes PATRICK HUYGHE

One of the misconceptions we Forteans have to deal with is that the strange phenomena we take as our subject matter are actually quite rare, if they exist at all. The now infamous biting incident that took place during the boxing match between Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield on 28 June 1997 is a perfect example. The way the world reacted to Tyson's biting off bits of Holyfield's ears would lead you to think that humans rarely bite other humans. President Bill Clinton was "horrified" by the incident and the media reported how appalled everyone else was.

But the coverage of bad boy Tyson's biting behaviour was marked by a total lack of perspective. Yes, what he did was clearly outside the rules of the sport and biting is considered unacceptable behavior among sophisticated people everywhere. Even children know that you just don't bite. But it wasn't murder. It was a fight, after all. And just about everyone glossed over the fact that biting of this kind is rampant. It happens all the time in New York.

The New York City Department of Health requires physicians to fill out a bite report form whenever they treat a bite that has broken the skin and drawn blood. It's an animal bite report form, of course, but there is a line item for humans as well – and for good reason. It turns out that of the 12,627 bites reported last year in New York City nearly one-tenth were humans sinking their teeth into other humans. As might be expected dogs were responsible for most of the bite reports last year with 9,655 bite incidents recorded. Cats came in second with 1,297, but humans were a not-distant third with 1,102. In fact, some years humans have come in second, while rats, squirrels and mice are usually placed a distant fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. On average then, three human bite incidents occur each day in New York City alone. But surely not all human bite incidents are being treated by physicians.

A former New York City Bureau of Animal Affairs director estimated that only about half the incidents of dogs biting humans are reported and believed that the same was probably true of humans biting humans. Nor is there any reason to think that New Yorkers have a corner on biting. So if you double the New York City figures to get the real number of people biting each other in New York every day and then extrapolate them to the whole country, we would have about 100 human bite incidents a day, or more than 36,000 bites a year, in the United States. If the same is true of Britain – and why not? – you would have to add more than 7,000 human bites to the yearly totals. And on a worldwide basis the New York City figures would translate to 825,000 bites a year, or more than 2,250 bites per day. What at first seemed merely peculiar suddenly blossoms into something verging on the epidemic.

Certainly one reason for this large gap between Fortean reality and the public's lack of awareness of the subject is that most human bite incidents do not make the news. Tyson's did because of his status, but then it was not the first time a celebrity has been caught with his teeth in another man's flesh. Back in the 1980s the actor James Garner tried to bite the motorist who grabbed, beat and choked him after a minor traffic accident in Los Angeles.

But most such incidents happen to ordinary Joes and if they are reported at all, are buried as 'filler items'. A few months before the Garner episode, for example, an angry crowd of 40 people attacked and bit two emergency-service technicians in Detroit because it took them so long to get to the scene of a traffic accident. And just last March a man in Long Island, New York, bit off a piece of his neighbour's nose during a brawl over damaged bushes.

Why do people bite? It usually happens when people are fighting for their lives. In aggressive situations, people, just like animals, bite. Tyson's explanation – "I just snapped" – makes sense. He knew better than to bite, but pure instinct took over as he felt the fight slipping away from him.

Our teeth are a formidable weapon in the arsenal of survival, an effective additional tool to our fist and feet. The tooth is the human body's sharpest instrument, and tooth enamel is one of the hardest substances known. A US Special Forces hand-to-hand expert at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, admitted to me many years ago that although biting is not a part of the training, he would recommend it highly in hand-to-hand combat. And some rape counselors and self-defense instructors say that biting is an effective tactic against an assailant.

I know about biting. As a child of seven, I clearly remember getting into a fight with my cousin, who was seven months older and much stronger. At one point he had me in a painful hold. I could not move. The only weapon I had available was my teeth and I used them on his shoulder blade. It worked. He broke the grip he had on me and went away crying. But I should hasten to point out that it's not children who do most of the biting.

Most of the biters and victims in the New York City statistics are males in the 15-to-20 year range. These are the most aggressive years for everything. They get killed the most in cars. They get killed the most in homicides. While I don't condone biting behaviour, I cannot condemn it either. It is a part of our animal nature that, if not for the ready availability of knives and guns, would be far more common than it is today. From an evolutionary point of view, our teeth are our oldest weapon. Through the ages, as knives gave way to swords, as swords grew longer and as guns became more accurate, combatants drew farther and farther apart and biting became less common. Cave men and women no doubt did more biting than we do: apes and monkeys are clear evidence of that. In fact, if we were to give monkeys handguns, they would bite less, too.

For me, the oddest thing about the Tyson episode is not that such things happen, but how people have reacted to it. How can we take the daily slaughter with guns in the United States so casually, yet be appalled at a man obviously struggling for survival in a sanctioned fight for nipping off the ear of his opponent? Something is wrong here and Tyson's actions are the least of it.

PATRICK HUYGHE IS EDITOR OF *THE ANOMALIST* AND AUTHOR OF THE BOOK *COLUMBUS WAS LAST*

PUB MONSTERS

THAR SHE'S BLOWN AWAY

When DARREN NAISH starts looking into the story of a whale stranded in Hampshire, his quest is queered by the discovery of another cetacean left high and dry at the same time

Things began, as they so often do, in the pub: a quaint establishment in Curbridge, Hampshire, called The Horse and Jockey. On the wall was, of all things, an old black and white photo of a dead whale with an accompanying newspaper article, dated July 1932. The story has it that a local woman heard splashing in a stream and ran to get the then landlord of The Horse and Jockey. On finding a whale in the stream, he assembled a group of men: they shot it dead, dragged it up onto the bank and had it photographed.

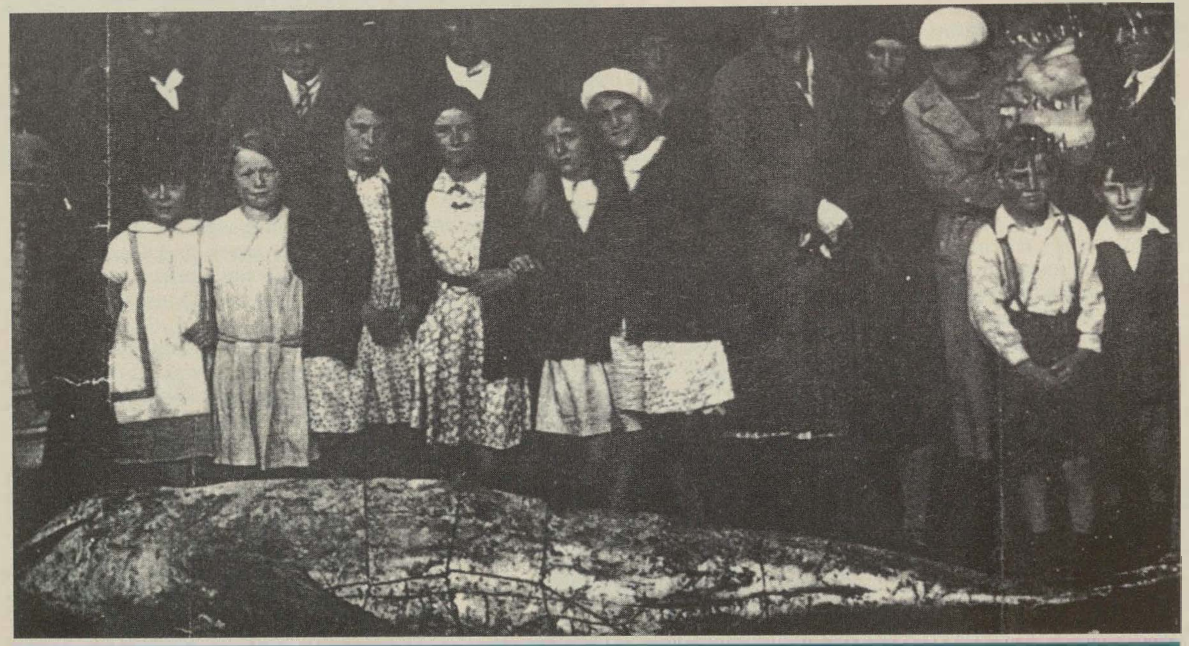
It shows a relatively small (6½–10ft (2–3m)), light grey, blunt-headed whale with a pale underside. I thought I knew my whales, but I couldn't identify the animal from the photo. Nor so when I finally got hold of copies of this photo, taken from various local history books published in the early 1980s. At least 19 people are standing behind the whale – many of them children. What surprised me most, however, was that the whale had been identified as a narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*) – that odd 'unicorn' whale from the high Arctic.

I made a mental note, despite the several pints enjoyed previously, and there the information sat, in my head, for about four years, until in July 1996 I decided to do something about it. My local newspaper, the *Daily Echo*, published my letter requesting information. The results were pleasing and, in the best cryptozoological fashion, served only to confuse the issue. Several people contacted me to tell of others who were among the children in the photo and one elderly gentleman has apparently made it his life's work to tell everyone he meets about his fascinating childhood encounter.

My biggest surprise was that an entirely different photo – taken at pretty much the same place in 1932 and also featuring a small, dead cetacean – is also in existence. It was taken at Botley Creek – within a stone's throw of The Horse and Jockey. The surprise was that this 'whale' was entirely different, it clearly being a bottlenosed dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) of about 8ft (2.4m) length. Nothing like the blunt-headed 'narwhal' at all. So, it would seem that two small cetaceans were stranded in the same place, in the same year. That these two events occurred so closely in time and space has confused my research, for when someone relates information on 'the whale', it's never that clear which one of the two they're referring to. A frustrating blank drawn in my research was that neither of these strandings was ever officially documented, so I was unable to cross-check opinions and observations. This is a little odd, as all cetacean strandings from 1913 to 1947 were meticulously compiled in a series of British Museum reports. Neither a bottlenosed dolphin, nor a narwhal, or any other sort of cetacean in fact, is recorded as having stranded in Hampshire in or around 1932.

To return to the biggest mystery, what *was* that first whale? I still don't know who identified it as a narwhal but, whoever did, I think they were wrong: it doesn't look like one to me. Obviously if it was, it would have to be a female, as it lacked a tusk. The occurrence of a narwhal around British shores wouldn't be so remarkable – they've been reported here several times, and have even been recorded as far south as The Netherlands (one was in 1912). However, I really can't see this animal as a narwhal. The light, speckled coloration and absence of distinctive white ventral rule out a pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*), too. A few other identities still need careful checking, but my best guess at the moment is that the carcass is of a Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*). A wise move on my part would be to consult whale identification experts.

Other possibilities exist for this whale. It might be a hybrid of some kind: wild-born hybrids between narwhal and white whale have been described, and other species of whale have been known to hybridise in the wild too. Maybe it is a narwhal after all and my identification skills are at fault. I don't know. However, rest assured that somewhere in the grounds around The Horse and Jockey are the buried remains of this unfortunate animal and some day I'll find someone who will know where they are. The research on this one has far from come to an end... and one source has told me that all of my information is wrong. Well, there's a surprise!



THE ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY: The small mystery whale, shot after becoming stranded in a stream in Curbridge, Hampshire in 1932

DARREN NAISH IS A ZOOLOGICAL RESEARCHER AND STUDENT, PRESENTLY STUDYING THE ECOLGY OF MARINE REPTILES. HE HAS PUBLISHED EXTENSIVELY ON MYSTERY WHALES.

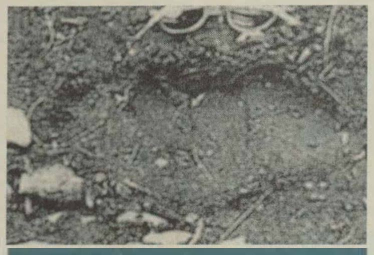
GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Back from his rounds with the cart, BOB RICKARD struggles to keep up with the paperwork in his efforts to mark the transition of some notable and less well known lives

CONRAD REGINALD COOKE

BORN IN MUSSOORIE, INDIA, 31 AUG 1901 – DIED JAN IN 1997, AGED 95.

Yeti witness, mountaineer and inventor, Reggie Cooke was sent to England to be educated and stayed with his eccentric grandfather in Hampstead. The house was a wonderful place for an inventive boy, full of scientific instruments and curious objects, such as a Wimshurst generator to shock guests and a lump of uranium, on open display, which projected silhouettes of intervening objects onto photographic plates. Reggie built a 'wireless telegraph' and delighted his grandfather by receiving the time signal from the Eiffel Tower.


IMPRESSION: Wild man print found by Conrad Cooke

In his first job, with the Indian Post and Telegraph, he was licensed to radiate up to one kilowatt, more power than many radio stations today. Soon he was designing and installing wireless receivers for the establishment, including the first shortwave link between India and Burma. Cooke became a keen naturalist and, during visits to Sikkim, would sketch butterflies, birds and beetles (one was named after him, *Chlaenius cookei*). This led to a love of mountaineering, with some significant records and firsts to his name. He went on to a distinguished service during World War II and developed the telecommunications superstructure of India and, after Partition, Pakistan.

In 1939, Cooke was on the Sikkim-Nepal border with Capt. John (later Lord) Hunt, when they came upon some strange tracks. His diary of 26 October reads: "Porters say it is the Yeti or *Sokpa* or Snowman!" Later in the same expedition, Cooke came across another set of two tracks. Although human-like, his experienced guide, Pasang Phutar, said these, too, were Yeti. In June 1944, Cooke and his first wife, Margaret, were on the Singaleela Ridge, also on the Sikkim-Nepal border, at 14,000ft (4,270m), when two porters pointed to marks on the ground: "See Sahib, the *Jungli Admi* [wild man]. Those are his tracks." They were larger than a normal footprint – 14in (35.5cm) from heel to toe – made by a heavy creature with a large big toe set to one side. They photographed it with Margaret's sunglasses for scale. Cooke believed that "an unknown man-like creature" could easily survive in remote valleys with impenetrable sides, but that the Yeti was, by the 1980s, probably extinct. These experiences are recorded in his autobiography *Dust and Snow: Half a Lifetime in India* (1988).

HOT BAIT: Phylis Davis – lure for the 'Halifax Slasher'

PHYLLIS DAVIS

BORN IN 14 JAN 1909 – DIED IN NORTHAMPTON, 21 FEB 1997, AGED 88.

At the age of 20, Phyllis Davis joined the *Daily Mail*, becoming Fleet Street's first female crime reporter and, during World War II achieved distinction as a war correspondent with the North Atlantic fleet. Fortean interest in her career stems from the fact that she actively covered the infamous 'Halifax Slasher', detailed by Michael Goss in *FT*'s now out-of-print *Occasional Paper* No.3 (April 1987). According to Alistair Fruish of the *Guardian* (6 March 1997): "She was an intensely likeable and strong person – and brave too. In 1938, during the 'Halifax Slasher' case, she patrolled the streets 'acting as a decoy', in her own words: "For the slashing maniac who has been terrorising this town." The affair turned out to be an instance of mass hysteria with witnesses who'd slashed themselves.

MANUEL ELIZALDE

BORN IN MANILA, 1937 – DIED IN MANILA, 3 MAY 1997, AGED 60.

Manuel Elizalde Jr. caused a storm of interest and controversy when he announced, in 1971, the discovery of the remnant of an isolated tribe in the Mindanao region of southern Philippines, living uncorrupted in Stone Age simplicity. Called the Tasadays, after their sacred mountain, they were hunter-gatherers who never strayed far from their caves and thought they were the only people in the world – see ***FT47:4***, and 'Tasaday, Tau't Batu and Thunderstones' by Mr X in ***FT49***.

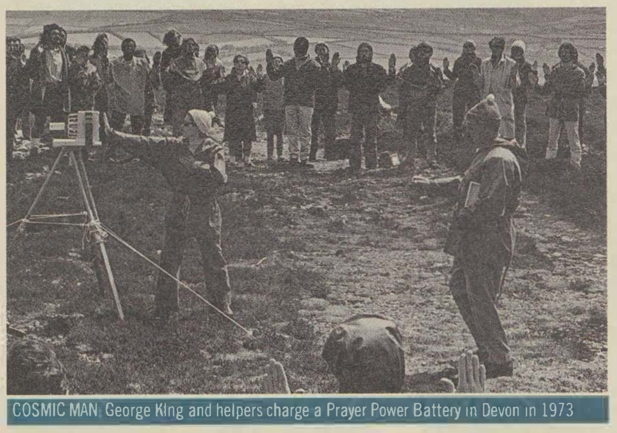
There was immediate scepticism from anthropologists world-wide who were divided over whether the case was a hoax. Firstly, Elizalde, a Harvard-educated scion of one of the wealthiest Filipino families, had a considerable reputation as a playboy before he took control of the family conglomerate (including mining, fibres, sugar and broadcasting). Secondly, people wondered how the Tasadays could have remained undetected in a country of over 40 million people which had been a battle ground during WW2 – see ***FT52:28***.

TRIBALIST: Manuel Elizalde and the Tasadays

At some point Elizalde became interested in the problems of minority communities and campaigned for them, first as a private citizen and then as a member of Ferdinand Marcos' cabinet. He and his wife adopted 50 children from such communities. He first heard rumours of the Tasadays while tending the family estates. The jungles covering remote mountain valleys were almost impenetrable at ground level and physical isolation of a whole region was entirely plausible. As the timber industry inched inexorably towards their sanctuary, Elizalde decided to make contact in an attempt to save them from inevitable doom. When his party landed in a helicopter, he was regarded as a god, a protector from 'outside' whose coming was foretold. His appeal to make the region a reserve, free from logging, farming and mining, has been upheld by all the Philippine governments since.

In 1983, Elizalde fell out with the Marcos regime and moved to Costa Rica where he continued his interest in the minorities of South and Latin America. He called them "unreached people" and thought that anthropologists and missionaries posed as big a threat to them as did the encroachment of industry and agriculture. In 1988, he returned to the Philippines under a cloud – the Costa Rican authorities were disquieted by rumours of misconduct involving his entourage of young Filipino girls – but failed to rekindle his political career; notably, in 1993, he was refused a nomination for the ambassadorship to Mexico.

Always hanging over him was the widespread assumption that the Tasaday episode was an elaborate hoax; for instance, some anthropologists pointed to the lack of middens commensurate with the continuous occupation over several centuries. Others warbled about Rousseau's noble savage, convinced that the minimal Tasaday culture was genuine (they were mostly naked, had no cultivation, fished and cooked primitively and rubbed sticks for fire). The controversy still rages over whether the Tasaday are a genuine Stone Age survival, but the balance of scholarly opinion suggests that the tribe was once part of the Manobo group that lived on the coast and fled inland to avoid some disaster, reverting over a number of generations to a primitive culture.


COSMIC MAN: George King and helpers charge a Prayer Power Battery in Devon in 1973

AETHERIUS SOCIETY

GEORGE KING

BORN IN WELLINGTON, SHROPSHIRE, 23 JAN 1919 – DIED IN SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, 12 JULY 1997, AGED 77.

In 1954, King claimed the first of a series of UFO contacts that continued throughout his life. In the following year, he founded the Aetherius Society, possibly the most famous and certainly the oldest extant UFO-related cult. The influence of the Aetherius Society upon the whole New Age movement cannot be overestimated as its teachings and practices were a synthesis of spiritism, psychical phenomena research, Eastern mysticism, Theosophy, fringe healing, pseudo-physics, ecology and ufology. King was raised as a spiritualist by his mother, who ran a healing sanctuary. In adapting seance techniques to contact UFO 'brethren' he would give trance messages from entities calling themselves 'the Master Aetherius' (supposedly living on Venus), 'Jesus' and 'Mars Sector 6'. The core of these messages was the need for mankind to become more spiritual in order to fend off global catastrophe. Members were encouraged to build 'cosmic batteries' and charge them with 'prayer energy', often in ceremonies on mountains designated 'holy sites'. The batteries were to be discharged at special 'power centres' in times of crisis.

His last book, *Contacts with the Gods from Space* was published in 1996. It summarised his life's work, describing him as "a cosmic avatar [..] and practical visionary who dedicated every ounce of his energy to the betterment of humanity."

THELMA MOSS

BORN IN 1918 – DIED 1 FEB 1997, AGED 78.

Dr Thelma Moss, who had an extraordinary career as a Broadway actress, screen-writer, psychotherapist and parapsychologist, was an early proponent of LSD. Impressed by the accounts of Huxley and Leary she initially used it to cope with the death of her husband (just two days after the birth of their daughter) and the subsequent depression which led to two suicide attempts. According to her obituarist Christopher Hawtree, the experiences revealed murderous, perverted, cannibalistic, sadistic and masochistic tendencies and Oedipal fantasies which she recorded in a notorious best-seller – *My Self and I* (1962), using the pseudonym Constance Newland.

She went back to college, feeling a little out-of-place as a middle-aged woman, to gain a doctorate in psychology. She spent much of the Sixties in a professorship at the Neuropsychiatric Institute of the University of California at Los Angeles and as an intern at the Wadsworth Veterans' Hospital.

Moss developed interests in bioenergy, parapsychology, healing, levitation. ghosts, hypnosis and Kirlian photography, which she popularised through her book *The Probability of the Impossible* (1974). She made several trips behind the Iron Curtain, where Kirlian techniques were being used in space research and, in Leningrad in 1970, she met Nina Kulagina, the Russian woman who was filmed many times apparently moving objects with the power of her mind. Moss was invited by NASA to explore a psychokinetic method of detecting metal fatigue and her work on Kirlian diagnostics was awarded the Douglas Dean award from the United Nations in 1976.

Her UCLA laboratory became popular with young scientists looking for a scientific basis for New Age beliefs and among the subjects tested there was a young Uri Geller, who amazed them all with his "capricious" talent.

Thelma Moss is credited as a writer on the 1954 film *Father Brown* (starring Alec Guinness) and an adviser on the movies *The Exorcist* (1973), *Poltergeist* (1982) and *Ghost* (1990).

JAMES STEWART

BORN IN VINEGAR HILLS, INDIANA, 20 MAY 1908 – DIED IN BEVERLY HILLS, 2 JULY 1997, AGED 89.

Unknown to the general public, Hollywood actor Jimmy Stewart also played a role in a real-life cryptozoological drama. Loren Coleman writes: "Stewart was one of the hidden partners behind the 1950s expeditions, organised by oil-magnate Tom Slick and F Kirk Johnson to search for the Abominable Snowman. Over the years, Stewart became interested in Bigfoot through his friendship with Peter Bryne. Stewart and Bryne were involved in the 'Pangboche Yeti hand' incident of 1959. In 1991, *Unsolved Mysteries* did a segment on how the hand parts were smuggled to London for analysis. Peter Byrne was a focus, but the programme failed to mention that it was Jimmy Stewart who hid the 'Yeti hand' in his luggage and flew with it to London" – see ***FT89:42***.

There are several other Fortean links to Jimmy Stewart. His 1939 film *The Shop around the Corner* was written by Ben Hecht – one of the founding members of the original Fortean Society and coiner of the word 'Fortean' – as was another film which starred Stewart in the same year, *It's a Wonderful World*. This latter is not to be confused with the film he made for Frank Capra, *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), which inspired the title for Stephen Jay Gould's *Wonderful Life* (1984), a book of essays on the variety of life in the Cambrian seas 530 million years ago.

WONDERFUL LIFE: James Stewart – Yeti smuggler

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TANAKA TOMOYUKI

BORN IN OSAKA, 1910 – DIED IN TOKYO, 2 APRIL 1997, AGED 86.

Best known as the creator of Godzilla – a gigantic lizard-like creature awakened from a long slumber by hydrogen bomb testing in the South Pacific – Tanaka produced moe than 200 films begining in 1944, including Kurosawa's *Yojimbo* (1961), *Sanjuro* (1962), and *Kagemusha* ('Shadow Warrior', 1980) which was the first Japanese film since 1954 to win the Golden Palm Grand Prix Award at the Cannes film festival.

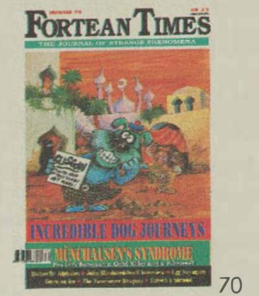
The 22nd in the series – *Godzilla versus Destroyer*, released in 1995 just 16 months before Tanaka's death – sees the heroic reptilian finally defeated by a bizarre microbe monster that ravages Hong Kong. It is said that the old man's heart was broken and he never really recovered.

forteantimes

BACK ISSUES CLEARANCE SALE

To order any of the available back issues, simply fill in the form below and return it to: FT Back Issues, Customer Interface, Bradley Pavilions, Bradley Stoke North, Bristol BS32 0PP. (Cheques payable to John Brown Publishing Ltd)

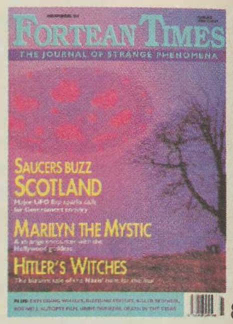
69



70

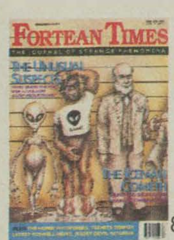
72

75



81

82



83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

98

99

100

101

102

103

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING BACK ISSUES CIRCLE THE ISSUE(S) YOU REQUIRE

69 70 72 75 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89

90 91 92 93 94 95 96 98 99 100 101 102 103

£2 EACH. (£2.50 OVERSEAS) P & P inclusive

I enclose a cheque/International money order for

Total: £__________ made payable to

John Brown Publishing Ltd, or debit the above amount from my (tick one)

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

☐ Eurocard ☐ Switch Card (Issue no) ________

card no:

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry Date ______/______

Signature ______________________ Date ______

Mrs/Miss/Ms/Mr

Address

Postcode Tel

☐ Please tick if you would prefer not to receive occasional mailings from selected companies

Please return this order form to: FT Back Issues, Customer Interface, Bradley Pavilions, Bradley Stoke North, Bristol BS32 0PP or phone charge card details on *01454 202515*. In the US and Canada, return to: *Fortean Times* Back Issues, 3330 Pacific Avenue, Suite 404, Virginia Beach VA 23451-2983 Freetoll 888-428-6676 (Cheques payable to John Brown Publishing Ltd) Allow 28 days delivery for orders placed in the UK, 6-8 weeks for overseas.

FB104

WE ACCEPT PHOTOCOPIES OF THIS FORM

LETTERS

CONTACT US... BY POST BOX 2409, LONDON NW5 4NP, UK; OR FAX US ON 0171 485 5002; OR E-MAIL TO sieveking@forteantimes.com

DRIVING ME MAD

Some years ago, I was walking along (I can't remember where) when I came across a little yellow car (LYC). It was a small, two-dimensional representation of a 1934 Citröen Traction Avant, made of yellow plastic. I popped it into my pocket, displayed it on my book shelf, and gave it no more thought.

A few years later, I found another one. To cut a long story short, I now have four LYCs in my possession. They are all identical except that the last has slightly thicker wheels than the others. They are about 2in (5cm) long and ¾in (2cm) high. Who makes these LYCs and – most of all – why? Why only yellow, and why only 1934 Citröens? Are there other colours and models? If so, why do I only find yellow Citröens? Does anybody else ever find them, or am I the chosen beneficiary of the mysterious supplier of LYCs?

They have obviously been manufactured for some purpose, at least I assume so. Somebody must know whence my LYCs emerge; let me know so that I may sleep in peace once more.

CHRISTOPHER DEAN
Ilford, Essex

TOO MUCH QIGONG

I noted with interest the story of a Mr Cui Tingxun who, while practising Qigong, assaulted and murdered his wife supposedly on the instructions of a 'greater being' [***FT100:20***]. I found this particularly interesting because of the warnings I was given when being instructed in Qigong – that if it was overdone it could lead to delusions and insanity. Several examples of this were cited, by the teacher and also one of my fellow pupils. In one case a Qigong master started to believe that he was invincible and decided to prove it by standing in front of an oncoming train (with obvious results) and another was of a friend of a fellow pupil who started to believe she had X-ray vision, and subsequently ended up receiving psychiatric treatment. The reason given for the ill effects of too much Qigong was that the development of Qi energy in a body which was unprepared for it was equivalent of running several tons of water through a dilapidated plumbing system; it would fall apart.

Also of interest in regards to Qigong is the reaction it creates in people who don't understand it. Another practitioner related how a friend who practised outdoors in her garden started to get hate mail accusing her of being a witch.

IAN CORMLIE
Barrhead, Glasgow

VIBRATING EYES

I am writing to see if any readers can throw light on a certain ability that my cousin possesses. It seems that rather like some people can waggle their ears, she can make her eyes vibrate in a lateral motion. Since I have yet to meet anyone else who can do this, I wondered just how common this ability is and why it is that only certain people can do it. My brother is also like the "Human Slate" as featured in your article about freak shows [***FT74:33***]; in that his skin is sensitive to friction and comes up in welts when scratched lightly, thus making it possible to write messages on him!

JAMES TAYLOR
106034.1477@compuserve.com

MASSES FOR CASH

In their article, "Village of the Damned: Rennes-le-Chateau Revisited" [***FT101:28***], Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince referred to "unsubstantiated headline fodder" without actually realising that they were doing the same thing: "Saunière spent an estimated 23 million francs over 20 years" and "The priest's connections with esoteric groups are openly acknowledged", for example.

They casually dismiss out-of-hand the possibility that Saunière's wealth could have originated from the selling of masses, without acknowledging the existence of primary source material strongly suggesting that this was indeed the case – it was on the charge of selling masses that Saunière was suspended from his priestly duties by his bishop on 5 December 1911.

The solution to the Rennes-le-Chateau "mystery" is simple: Saunière was a monarchist priest who sold masses to anti-republican congregations all over France prior to the split between Church and State in 1905. It was all part of the attempted restoration of the French monarchy. Much is made of the demon inside the church, but the statue of the Lourdes Virgin outside is ignored – the statue bears the date 1891 and this was when the local Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was introduced. The Lourdes cult was used by the French priesthood to get their congregations to vote against the atheistic republic during the elections. There is evidence to suggest that Saunière planned to retire to Lourdes, but could not afford it – he certainly made a pilgrimage there one year before he died.

As for Saunière's "devotion" to Mary Magdalene, this can be explained by the simple fact that his church was dedicated to the saint in the first place, and closer examination of the church's symbolism reveals that he equated Bernadette Soubirous with Mary Magdalene: one witnessed the Virgin, the other the Risen Christ – the Immaculate Conception was compared to the Resurrection.

As for the demon inside the church: SauniËre described the French Republic as the Devil in an anti-republican sermon of 1886 which led to his first temporary suspension from priestly duties (he wasn't so lucky the second time around in 1911).

The "mystery" of Rennes-le-Chateau was born during the mid-1950s when a chap by the name of Noël Corbu bought Saunière's estate, turned it into a hotel and invented the "treasure-discovery" theme in order to attract customers to his establishment.

PAUL SMITH
Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire

LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT

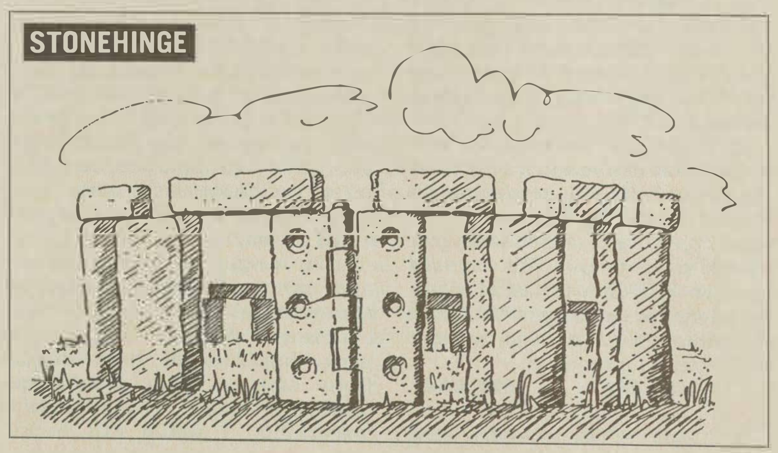
Whenever I rub the sole of my foot with a flannel or similar item I feel a burning sensation in the sole of the other foot. I am intrigued to discover whether anybody else is similarly afflicted.

MIKE BRIGHT
Pontprennau, Cardiff

AN ODD BREAK

One weekend last May my wife and I were sharing a bottle of wine at home. I reached up into the cupboard in which we keep our wine glasses, inverted on the shelf to keep the dust out. I removed one of the glasses, and was startled to discover only half of the glass in my hand. The glass, with no sound of breaking, had left its top half on the shelf. It was a perfectly clean break, leaving a 1in (2.5cm)-wide circle of glass on the shelf. The glass, obviously, was unusable, and I carefully inspected the small ring-shaped piece of glass left in the cupboard. It was not stuck in any way to the cupboard shelf, and I removed it easily. No explanations of this odd little phenomenon have been forthcoming.

BROOKS WALDHART
Vancouver, Washington, USA



ROGER LATHAM

DO NOT ADJUST YOUR SET

I recently discovered that an old iron screwdriver, when brought in close to our TV screen, disrupts the picture with purple and green hues. Ergo, if fairies came from advanced cultures dependent on electromagnetic energy in some implements, then a little iron may have been disadvantageous and disruptive to them, generating the belief that iron "protects" against the fairy folk. Or is my telly on the blink?

Ms M MORGANS
Ainsdale, Merseyside

I am writing in the hope that someone might be able to explain a minor mystery. Every time I bite into chocolate whilst in the same room as a switched on TV, horizontal lines of interference appear on the screen. The phenomenon only occurs when eating chocolate and is not recorded on any video recordings.

A LEE FIRTH
Rotherham, Yorkshire

FLOPPY SPOONS

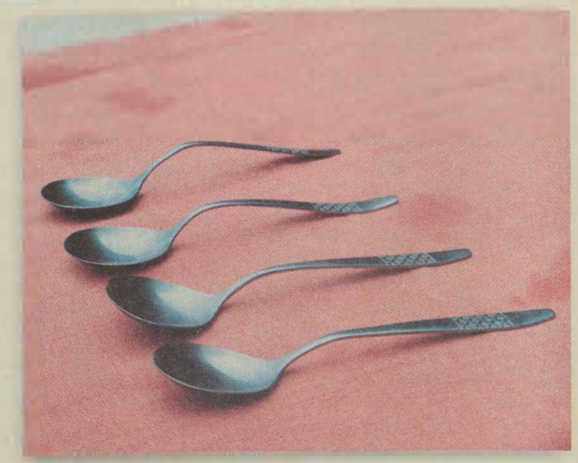
On 7 June, I prepared my breakfast (malted cornflakes with sultanas, maple syrup and soya milk) as usual in the kitchen. I then picked up the bowl in my left hand and as I walked round to the living room where I usually eat I noticed the spoon, which was resting with the head on top of the cornflakes and the handle extending over the side of the bowl, start to 'melt' and curl down over the edge of the bowl. I wondered if I was imagining things.

As I had seen Uri Geller bend spoons on TV, I held the handle where it had bent between my thumb and forefinger and started to rub it in the hope of making the spoon bend some more. Nothing happened. I put another spoon in the bowl. This also started to bend, not just by the bowl of the spoon, as with the first one, but also at the tip of the handle, which bent upwards. This stopped after a few seconds. We're on a roll here, I thought, let's try another one. Nothing much seemed to happen this time. After eating my now soggy cornflakes, I got a fourth spoon out and compared them in a row; I now saw that the third spoon had also bent slightly.

I shared this story with Linda, a friend of the family, the next morning. The night before my drooping spoon breakfast, there was a big storm with much lightning. Linda said her 13-year-old daughter, Grace, came downstairs at about 10.10pm, saying that she had just seen a white ball fall from the sky and that she felt uneasy. She had seen many storms from her window and had never before felt uneasy or the need to come downstairs because of one. She said that at the same time as a flash of sheet lightning that lit up the whole sky, she saw a white circular ball, about the size of the Sun, with a black edge around it with lots of 'spiky bits' coming off it, also edged in black. When the lightning went, the ball also disappeared. Just after Grace told her mother about this, all the TV stations in the area blacked out. I called the local TV broadcasting Duty Desk to find out what had happened. They were a little vague, saying there'd been an engineering fault, a mains failure and a lightning strike at the Heathfield mast.

Could the storm have caused or contributed to the conditions for my spoons to bend?

KRISS GLENVILLE
Crowborough, East Sussex



DROOPY: What caused these spoons to spontaneously bend in a cereal bowl?

GUIDED MISSILES

I wonder whether any of your readers have had experience of what I suspect to be a form of telekinesis we all possess. I am thinking of those instances (which seem to happen often to me) when you casually throw an object with no clear idea of where it will go and it lands almost perfectly in the most appropriate position. An example happened this morning when I was cleaning out a shelf in my flat. I found a marker pen that could come in handy, so I lobbed it over my shoulder from behind a sofa where I was crouched and was not even slightly surprised to find that it landed squarely on my desk, which was at least 10ft (3m) faway.

Not remarkable you might say, but it also landed neatly next to my other pens without disturbing them, or any of the other objects on the desk. I generally find that if I try to aim things they always go awry; but a casual chuck, even when I'm not looking, frequently finds its mark.

My hypothesis is not that the subconscious is extraordinarily good at aiming, but that it is possible to exert a subtle influence over the exact trajectory of objects when in a relaxed state of mind. This seems to me to be difficult to test and I would be interested to hear what other readers might suggest as a possible experimental procedure.

MIKE SHAW
York
101564.2307@compuserve.com

ADVANCE NOTICE

I was intrigued by Gunnar Eggertsson's letter about the *Fylgja*, the Icelandic ghost of presage [***FT101:51***]. It reminds me of the Norwegian phenomenon of the same kind. They term it *Vardogr* and it is discussed by Brag Steiger in his book *Real Ghosts, Restless Spirits and Haunted Minds*. He writes "The Vardogr is a kind of spiritual projection which its possessor unconsciously employs to announce his physical arrival." This arrival is, however, announced some minutes before the actual arrival.

As a small boy in a town in south-east Scotland, I lived in a huge, spooky house which had been a Victorian rectory until my parents bought it. My father worked abroad much of the time, my brother had flown the nest and my mother did not return home from work until 4.30pm or later. Besides experiencing a poltergeist and occasional unexplained sounds when the place was unoccupied save for myself, the Old Rectory was quiet and detached, standing in a cul-de-sac with only two neighbouring houses across a yard and a private lane respectively.

Having got home from school and expecting my mother's arrival at any time, I would regularly hear her car door slam and the front door bang shut. I heard these sounds from afar, so they would be relatively faint, but clearly discernible. I would call hello. Failing to obtain a response, I would come downstairs or come into the hall and investigate. Often enough, I would open the front door and look to see if her car was there.

When I had established that she had not, in fact, arrived, I would then wait for five or 10 minutes, knowing that she was merely letting me know that she was a couple of miles up the road and would shortly be home. I think I experienced this only with her until recently.

On that occasion, my former secretary who worked with me for some years, and who now pops in to collect typing, was due to call by my office. Hearing the buzzer from reception, I went to the door, but she wasn't there. Suspecting a Vardogr, I waited for exactly five minutes and then returned to the door. She came around the corner within 30 seconds, startled to see me awaiting her.

ANDREW GRAY
Edinburgh

OOPS!

On page seven of *Weird Year 1996* (and this appeared in *FT* too) you quote *De Telegraaf* as saying that some fishermen caught a conger eel off Schotland in Holland. In fact the word Schotland translates as Scotland, which isn't in Holland.

ROBIN LEE
Fletton, Peterborough

TAPPING THE HEAD FIELD

In the early 1960s, I was at a special boarding school for the deaf at Bolton near Manchester. Sometime between 1964 and 1966, on a summer evening around 4.30pm, I was standing alone in the school's wash room. Because I was small, I was standing on a wooden chair so that I could look in the mirror to brush my hair. As I turned the cold water tap on to wet my hair, a horrible vibrating noise made me think there must be an air-lock in the pipes. I ran the comb under the water and raised it towards my hair, but it hit something solid above my head. I looked up to see what it was and was frightened to find nothing there. The ceiling was about 15ft (4.6m) high, so I tried once more to comb my hair. Again it hit something a few inches above my head, and again when I looked there was nothing there. I raised my hand and pressed against what felt like glass or an invisible force field.

I ran into the corridor trying to find someone to witness this phenomenon – but there was no one around. I was excited as well as scared and so I returned to the chair, stood on it again and hit the barrier as hard as I could with the hope of smashing it, but all it did was make a dull thud that echoed around the wash room. I then became frightened that it would crush me to death, so I turned off the running tap and was about to leave when I realised that the barrier had vanished. I turned the tap on again but it did not come back. I tried numerous "settings" on the tap for the rest of my time at the school, but the barrier never happened again. Has anybody else had this kind of experience or got any ideas on what it was?

KARL LIGGETT
Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside

GLAMOURISING JOHN THOMAS

Regarding the unfortunate cases of missing genitals [***FT93:10***], I found a European precedent in the *Malleus Maleficarum ("The Hammer of Witches", 1486)*. There is a detailed discussion entitled "Whether Witches may work some Prestidigitatory Illusion so that the Male Organ appears to be entirely removed and separate from the Body" (Part I, Question 9). The conclusion is that witches (and presumably Nigerian warlocks) cast a "Glamour" or "Illusion" upon the innocent member to hide it from all human senses.

The *Malleus* suggests a simple remedy (Part 2, Question 2). All we have to do if our members are "glamourised" is to come to an amicable agreement with the offending witch (or warlock). Might I suggest "Can I have my balls back please?" to be going on with?

ROGER MARTIN
Rugeley, Staffordshire

CLAWS GIVEAWAY

The photograph of a huge paw-print in cement [***FT101:26***] certainly looks like 'concrete' evidence of a large beast on the loose in Essex. However, all big cats (with the exception of the cheetah) walk with their claws retracted, so clawmarks do not appear on their footprints. Claws are clearly visible on three of the four toes in the photograph, suggesting that the prints were made by something canine rather than feline. The narrow spread of the toes also supports the theory that the prints are more likely to be from a Great Dane than an Essex puma.

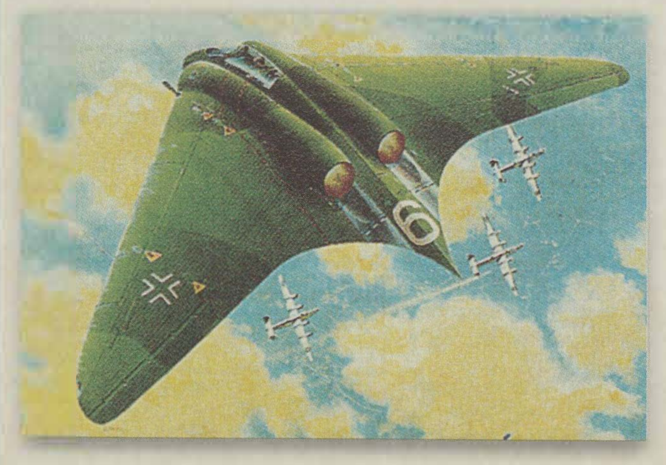
DAVID HAMBLING
Wembley, Middlesex

THE ORIGINS OF MJ12?

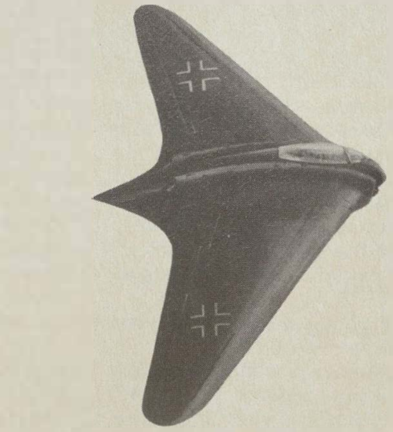
While watching the film *Tora! Tora! Tora!* on TV, I spotted something I had not noticed before. The Americans were using a machine to decode Japanese radio messages. It was kept in a locked room and called 'Operation Magic'. More importantly, the decoded messages were seen by only 12 people (including the President). Later in the film, the President's name was removed from the list as the people working with him were classed as security risks.

So, did 'Operation Magic' become 'Majestic 12', being too secret even for the President? Did the film makers know about 'Majestic 12' and adapt the idea? The film is supposed to be based on fact... or is this just a coincidence?

STEVE HULFORD
Braintree, Essex.
hulford@bigfoot.com



FLYING WING OR FLYING SAUCER? Matchbox model of Horten GO 229 A-1



Horten Ho-1X A-Series project for a fighter using two Jumo jets

NAZI UFOS

I must add a contribution to the debate on Kenneth Arnold's flying saucers [***FT100:26***] which no-one appears to have raised before, as the articles ends with: "The objects described did not resemble any known aircraft."

I enclose two illustrations of the Horten HO-IX jet fighter – one from Brian Ford's *German Secret Weapons: Blueprint for Mars* (1969) and the other from the current Matchbox construction kit catalogue. The Horten, with its swept-back wings and an almost non-existent tailplane could fit the description "flying crescent with something resembling fuselage aft".

According to Ford, the Luftwaffe got around to test-flying Horten jets "built for production purposes at the Luftwaffe's Sonder-Kommando-9 at Göttingen towards the very end of the war." (p100) At least four variants of this airframe were built and tested at Göttingen, a city which fell inside the American Zone of Occupation when Germany was divided in May 1945. As we now know that all four occupying powers stripped their respective shares of Germany of everything of military worth – the RAF was still evaluating captured German air technology in 1950 – is it possible that the Americans shipped their captured Hortens home for evaluation and test flight, possibly in a remote region like Washington State?

The beauty of this explanation is that the US Government did not have to invent the story as misinformation. Arnold, seeing aircraft outside anyone's general experience, devised the flying saucer concept as the only way of explaining what he'd seen. Thus, from small acorns...

PAUL CATLOW
Stockport, Cheshire

SPORTY VIKING

I read the article 'Spooky' in [FT92:34] with great interest. I was in fact reminded of a haunting at my old home town. In Cumbernauld, there is apparently the ghost of a Viking warrior haunting the sports centre. The centre is called the Tryst, and apparently the ghostly figure will appear at night, wrecking sports equipment and wandering up and down the corridors in full battle dress. I am guaranteed the story is true, and the Tryst no longer hires a night watchman because of the frightening encounters experienced by the last guard brought on by contact with a fully equipped Norse berserker. The exact reasons for the haunting are unknown, but it could be due to the Tryst being built on an old burial site (just under squash court 3).

CRAIG THOMSON
Heriot-Watt University
CraigThomson@hw.ac.uk

WHERE WE STAND

Are you aware what a laughing stock your magazine has now become among serious UFO researchers and those who follow the subject closely? Why don't you simply change the magazine title to *UFO Sceptic Times*? Examples in *FT102* include a sarcastic article headed 'Saucerheads' about 'CSETI' and Dr Steven Greer (p43); a letter stating Lord Dowding was told by George Adamski that his ET contacts were a fabrication (p54); a review of Courtney Brown's book *Cosmic Voyage* describing it as "utter rot from start to finish" (p57); and Janet Bord asserting: "No genuine photo of a close UFO sighting exists" (p34). But then I presume you believe that the video trilogy of Mexican footage, the Billy Meier photos and footage, the photos which appear annually in Wendelle Stevens's American UFO calendars and of course the 'Gulf Breeze' photos and footage, to name but a few, are all hoaxes. Silly me for asking!

If you hold such a negative stance why even bother mentioning the subject in your magazine? While the field has moved on in leaps and bounds during the past 20 years your beliefs on UFOs appear to be stuck in a timewarp circa 1970. The denial over abductions and the 'Greys' for example becomes comical at times.

Even your news reporting has now become inaccurate and inept. An article in the February issue concerning the validity of the Japanese 'UFO Museum' which you dismiss as nonsense and the mischief-making of a Japanese ufologist is totally untrue. The Hakui UFO Museum does exist; it's open to the public; and large numbers are presently visiting it. Surely, a written apology to Colin Andrews is the least you can do.

Having been a reader of *Fortean Times* for more than 15 years it saddens me to see a leading paranormal magazine become so narrow-minded towards ufology and to see the respect that you once held diminishing rapidly. The person I feel most sorry for is Charles Fort. He must be turning in his grave.

CHRIS STONOR
chrisston@mistral.co.uk

At what point did you decide to turn a great magazine into a *Skeptical Inquirer* Jr? I'm sure that the blindly ignorant folks at CSICOP now enjoy your magazine! I hope they're reading it – because I know I'm not the only person who has noticed what has happened to your magazine. Certainly, Charles Fort is frowning from above! Oops – I forgot, there is no such thing as an afterlife! How silly of me to notice that there are realities that the human mind may not be able to fully comprehend!

COLIN FARRELL
corwin@webtv.net

THE EDITORS REPLY: *We thank Chris and Colin for giving us the opportunity to address the important issue of our editorial stance. They obviously feel deeply that we have betrayed them in some way, but the 'believer' stance they think we once held is purely imaginary: a false memory. We are – and always have been – a forum for a variety of points of view, so it is inevitable that some will be opposed and others reviled.*

Chris and Colin seem to equate questioning a subject with rubbishing it; in any case we don't question 'subjects' per se, only so-called facts and their provenance. It is not in our nature to believe things simply because someone says they are "true". Genuine scepticism is saying: "I don't know the answer" and adding "but I'd like to find out". We ourselves oscillate between credulity and disbelief all the time, but in the search for better data it is our duty to question everything. After all, if the data survives the questioning, it gains integrity.

The UFO scene could certainly do with a UFO Sceptic Times, *but as there are enough periodicals in the marketplace specifically dedicated to ufology, we prefer to cover the wider scope of forteana generally. In our view, that includes UFO-related material where this sheds light on matters of evidence and interpretation.*

On more specific points: Janet Bord closed her article with a selection of photos for which there is still no reasonable explanation; the opinions of our writers and reviewers are their own (would you have it any other way?); and the Mexican video footage of UFOs mentioned has been thoroughly discredited in the July 1997 edition of the excellent Californian magazine UFO. *Thorough research has similarly blown away the Gulf Breeze and Meier photos in the estimation of many students of the subject and we'll draw a veil of decency over Adamski's "bottle cooler". Incidentally, we chuckle over the accusation that our view of UFOs is "stuck in a time warp circa 1970" – which is rich coming from a thorough-going ETH (extra-terrestrial hypothesis) supporter in the mould of Donald Keyhoe, circa 1950!*

*Regarding Chris's beef with our 'UFO Museum' report [***FT95:12***]: we took our data from the painstaking researches of Paul Fuller and Jun-Ichi Takanashi, one of Japan's most venerable ufologists, who, together, unravelled the claim by Johsen Takano that a UFO Museum would be founded in the city of Hakui. Our report clearly states that a real museum – called the Cosmo Isle Hakui Museum – was being built. In his open letters to Colin Andrews (circulated to interested researchers), Mr Takanashi takes great care to explain this, insisting that it was never a 'UFO Museum' but a 'Space Museum', as Andrews would have discovered if he could read Japanese or not been blinded by Mr Takano's unauthorised pitch. It has since opened as a general space science museum and has, we believe, a few exhibits relating to UFOs and crop circles etc.*

Chris and Colin both imply that our sceptical attitude offends the shade of Charles Fort. We, inevitably, think not. Fort himself wrote: "I do not know how to find out anything new without offending somebody." Also: "I cannot accept that the products of minds are subject-matter for beliefs;" and: "To the regret of my contrariness, it is impossible for me utterly to disagree with anybody."

We have no interest in eliminating or destroying other points of view – on this, the Fortean position is clear: the more opinions, the merrier the argument – but neither do we want to waste time deluding ourselves and others. We continue the method Fort used to find a more reliable passage through the hurricane of nonsense, lies, hoaxes, misinformation and bad scholarship. As for respect: we are content to let that arise from the quality of our work and the sincerity of our continuing search for reliable data.

Finally, Chris accuses: "If you hold such a negative stance why even bother mentioning the subject in your magazine?" In 25 years of publishing FT, *we have seen a torrent of data that was at first enthusiastically promoted only to be qualified or rejected later as erroneous or unreliable. Yet we are not daunted because the process of discovering truth (whatever that is) is more important to us than latching on, prematurely, to information that apparently supports our beliefs. In all of this, the what and why of personal belief is fascinating to us. We take a step back to study both the believer and the object of belief, avoiding unwarranted value judgements as best we can. This way, even the study of dubious things can shed some light on what is going on.*

DEATH METHANE?

Regarding the sad demise of Mohammed Al-Assad [**FT97:21**]: according to my friend Ernie Kathen, "the human body does not produce methane because the bacteria capable of producing this gas lives only in anærobic conditions ("having no oxygen"). However, cattle can produce methane because they have a different type of digestive system. Your report states that Al-Assad's room was "air-tight", which seems unlikely, but if true, he might have died from lack of oxygen rather than "gassing" himself by altering his environment through flatulence.

RAY HANSEN
Glendale Heights, Illinois
Raywriter1@aol.com

forteantimes
the journal of stra
SPOOKY AS CHARGED
JUDGEMENT DAY FOR SPIRITS
THE LIGHT FANTASTIC
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EARTH LIGHTS
ROSWELL RAVE ON
THE PARTY'S OVER...
MAN MACHINE
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO THE TEST
order now
subscription hotline
01454 202515
T306

SOUNDS BIZARRE

Informative, entertaining, professional quality tapes now available of speakers at *Fortean Times* conferences – UnConvention'96 and UnConvention'97. Each talk on a one-hour cassette at £5.50 per tape inclusive of post, packing and vat.
A discount of 10% is available on ten tapes or more. Use the check list below to indicate your choice and return the completed order to the address shown.

☐ FT00b Owlmen and Others. *Johnathan Downes*
☐ FT02b Conspiracy Theories and Research. *Robin Ramsay*
☐ FT03b The U.S. Government and Wilhelm Reich. *Kenn Thomas*
☐ FT06b Repressed Inventions and Suppressed Patents. *Dr. Harold Aspden*
☐ FT07b Bizarre Aspects of Reincarnation. *Roy Stemman*
☐ FT08b The Highgate Vampire. *David Farrant*
☐ FT09b Sexual Aspects of Ancient British Fertility Rites. *Terence Meaden*
☐ FT10b Aspects of False Memory. *Roger Scotford*
☐ FT11b The Santilli Film. A panel debate with *Philip Mantle, Rod Dickenson*
☐ FT12b How to be a Guru. *William Shaw*
☐ FT13b The Brooklyn Bridge Abduction. *Budd Hopkins*
☐ FT14b UFO's Once a Mystery, Now Show Biz. *Philip Klass*
☐ FT15b Shockingly Close to the Truth. *Jim Moseley*
☐ FT16b Violence and the Millennium. *Damian Thompson*
☐ FT17b Cults; Real and Imaginary. *Sherill Mulhern*
☐ FT18b Vaults, Vampires and Holes in the Ground. *Lionel Fanthorpe*
☐ FT19b Astrological Alignments of Ancient Monuments. *Robin Heath*
☐ FT20b Haunted Heads and Screaming Skulls. *Andy Roberts*
☐ FT21b Out come the freaks. *Ian Simmons*
☐ FT22b The Green Children of Woolpit. *Duncan Lunan*
☐ FT23b A History of British UFO Research. *Jenny Randles*
☐ FT24b MIGO the Lake Monster of New Britain. *Darren Nash*
☐ FT25b A Field Guide to Extraterrestials. *Patrick Huyghe*
☐ FT26b Abductions; Some Real Life Stories. *Hilary Evans*
☐ FT27b UFO Discussion. with *Budd Hopkins, Patrick Huyghe, Phillip Klass, Jenny Randles* and *Dennis Stacy* hosted by *Ian Simmons*
☐ FT28b Remote Viewing. *Tim Rifat*
☐ FT29b Conspiracies: A Positive View. *Marcus Allen*
☐ FT30b The Voyager Tapes. *Dr. Mark Biddiss*
☐ FT31b Cold Fusion-and Perhaps a New Physics. *Chris Tinsley*
☐ FT33b Ley Lines: Dead and Buried. *Danny Sullivan*
☐ FT34b What are Ghosts. *Tony Cornell*
☐ FT35b Feng Shui. *Graham Gunn*
☐ FT36b Who Wrote Shakespeare? *John Michell*
☐ FT90a Evolving perceptions of the vampire. *Tina Rath*
☐ FT91a Post-mortem movements & the rise of the vampire. *David Taylor-Pescod*
☐ FT92a The Visual Evolution of the Vampire. *Gail Anderson*
☐ FT93a Satanic Panic Field Research. *Sherill Mulhern*
☐ FT94a Rennes-le-Chateau. *Lionel Fanthorpe*
☐ FT95a From Maury Island to Area 51. *Kenn Thomas*
☐ FT96a The British Government and UFO's. *Nick Pope*
☐ FT97a UFO's & the Government. *Nick Pope, Kenn Thomas, Peter Brookesmith*
☐ FT98a A Tex/Mex UFO Crash. *Dennis Stacy*
☐ FT99a Mermaids. *David Heppell*

ORDER FORM

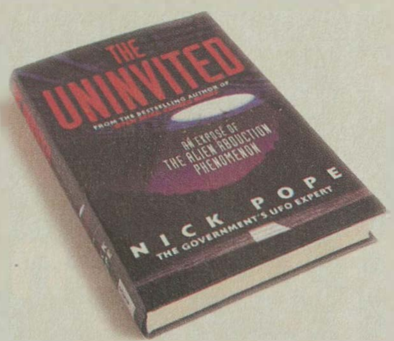
Name: ____________________
Address: ____________________
Postcode: __________ Tel. __________

Please send me the tapes indicated above at £5.50 per tape including Vat and P&P. (EEC. £6.00... U.S. $10.50... Rest of the world £6.50 / $11.25 per tape).
Total: £
I enclose a cheque/postal order payable to **DENIS DIRECT.**
(US$ cheques payable to John Brown Publishing)

Please debit my credit/debit card. Please tick your card type:
☐ Visa, ☐ Access, ☐ Mastercard, ☐ American Express, ☐ Connect. (tick one only)
Card Number: |_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|
Expiry date: __________
Signature: __________ Date: __________

RETURN TO:
Sounds Bizarre, Dennis Direct, P.O. Box 2505, Alcester, B50 4JU, England
Or phone: 01789 490215.
100-ADS-711

WHO ASKED YOU?


THE UNINVITED
FROM THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
AN EXPOSÉ OF THE ALIEN ABDUCTION PHENOMENON
NICK POPE
THE GOVERNMENT'S UFO EXPERT

THE UNINVITED: AN EXPOSÉ OF THE ALIEN ABDUCTION PHENOMENON

NICK POPE

Simon & Schuster, London, hb
£15.99, pp316. Refs, index.
ISBN 0-684-81927-9.

It's a tough job being Nick Pope, the ufological whistleblower from the Ministry of Defense (MOD). His first book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds* promised much but delivered little, leaving seasoned ufologists to ponder what the MOD really does know about UFOs, and the more conspiratorially minded to suggest that Pope is just a patsy for the cover-up. But his former UFO desk jockey credentials alone guarantee sales, and so sure enough a follow up has come along. This time Pope gets straight to the point; ignoring the tricksy problem of UFO sightings, he instead sets his parameters to encompass "human encounters with non-human intelligence", a noble question which has taxed the minds of philosophers and shamans for millennia.

Far from being the 'exposé' of its breathless sub-title, *The Uninvited* is an enthusiastic if ineffectual ramble through the components and experiences which have been lumped together as 'abductions'. Pope has done his background reading this time, making few outright gaffes and even offering practical suggestions such as setting up video surveillance systems of 'repeater' abductees in an attempt to catch the phenomenon in action. But he can't resist the exotic, and every practical observation is balanced by someone's outrageous experience, such as the case of 'Patsy' who, following a lifetime of odd experiences, found her art gallery full of a bunch of disparate individuals she concluded were aliens giving her a lesson in how to deal with people! Whether we like it or not, when the belief curtains are parted, the ufological experience *is* outrageous, with phenomena 'leakage' taking place, often making it difficult identify whether an experience belongs in the UFO, ghost or poltergeist category.

As you'd expect, Pope's reports from the abductee world mirror what other many investigators have found and it's a strange world indeed where fear of certain animals and insects, fear of certain stretches of road all act as 'screen memories' for alien abductions, where psychic powers are received as the result of an abduction and where nothing is what it appears. Debunkers will have an easy time of savaging *The Uninvited* for this alone, but by being open to the witnesses' stories Pope unintentionally makes the point that many people *do* have bizarre experiences on an everyday basis, experiences which western psychology and science have failed to explain satisfactorily.

Sometimes Nick's enthusiasms carry him away into naïvety, as with his espousal of hypnotic regression as a tool for accessing information about alleged abductions. Similarly, when touching on the problem of abductions involving children, the only 'evidence' he can muster is that of a child refusing to sleep in a particular bedroom because if she did the 'bad fairies would come and take [her] away'. Hardly compelling proof.

THE BELIEF CURTAINS ARE PARTED [..] THE UFOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE IS OUTRAGEOUS

Perhaps the greatest mystery in *The Uninvited*, and maybe the key to Pope's interest in the subject, revolves round the chapter entitled 'Terror On The Toll Road' in which 'Peter' is abducted while on holiday in Florida. It has long been rumoured in ufological circles that 'Peter' is none other than Pope himself and that the case was in a pre-publication draft of his first book under his own name. Curiously Pope will neither 'confirm nor deny' these rumours and it will be a test of his integrity and motives to see how this rumour plays itself out on the printed page. If untrue then why not simply deny it? If true then why not come clean? Often the real ufological mysteries are as much human as they are alien.

The final chapter has a useful run down of the main contenders for explaining abductions ranging from the ETH through government experiments and mind control to the inevitable time travellers, stopping briefly at the collective unconscious and mass hysteria. Pope rightly concludes that the explanation is likely to be a mixture of all or some of these components. But this is where ufology has been stuck since 1947. 'Explaining' the cause of an abduction experience does not address the content or purpose of these reality twitches and in the end Pope draws back from the human complexities he has found and goes all simplistic on us: "I believe the evidence for the physical reality of abductions is so conclusive as to be virtually undeniable," (despite the fact he has presented no real evidence, other than the anecdotal). He muddies his conclusion further by going on to posit a campaign by aliens unknown to civilise us as a species – "if humanity is to take its place among the stars" – harking back to the claims of the contactees and their childlike vision of some a cosmic brotherhood.

At best *The Uninvited* is an unpretentious book showing a man trying to get to grips with the labyrinthine uncertainties of the UFO abduction phenomena. At worst it's another wave of superstition lapping at the millennium. In the continuing absence of hard evidence for either the choice is yours and yours alone.

ANDY ROBERTS

NICK POPE: Neither confirms nor denies rumours that one chapter of his book relates his own abduction tale

RATING SYSTEM

EXCELLENT

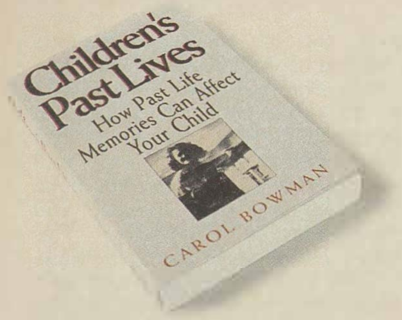
GREAT

GOOD

FAIR

BAD

EXECRABLE



DISCOVER YOUR PAST LIVES

CASSANDRA EASON

Quantum/Foulsham, Chippenham, Berks SL1 5AP, 1996, pb £7.99, pp154.
ISBN0-572-02198-4.

CHILDREN'S PAST LIVES: HOW PAST LIFE MEMORIES CAN AFFECT YOUR CHILD

CAROL BOWMAN

Element Books/Bantam, London & NY,
1997, hb £16.99, US$24.95, pp310,
bib, notes. ISBN 1-86204-149-0.

PAST LIVES: CASE HISTORIES OF PREVIOUS EXISTENCE

DILYS GATER

Robert Hale, London, 1997, hb
£14.99, pp158, further reading.
ISBN: 0-7090-5947-7.

PAST LIVES, FUTURE LIVES

JENNY COCKELL

Piatkus, London, 1997, Pb £9.99,
pp168, further reading, illus, plates.
ISBN 0-7499-1608-7.

The idea of reincarnation has an attraction for most of us and profound implications, if true, for almost every aspect of human knowledge and behaviour. I am thus astonished that it is not taken seriously as a legitimate hypothesis for investigation – astonished, but not surprised because the subject has been almost completely annexed by the New Age industry and swamped in wishful thinking, woolly analysis and fashionable mystic babble. But is it, as the sceptics would have us believe, utter nonsense, lies and fantasy?

Of the four, Cassandra Eason's epitomises the New Age approach. After a skim through (mainly Eastern) ideas about reincarnation, Eason shows you 'How to be your own Regressionist'. In essence this is another superficial romp through a variety of New Agery – crystals pendulums and candles – as aids for exercises in controlled dreams and imagination. The resulting images are interpreted as either glimpses of the future or memories of past lives. It's as simple (and simple-minded) as that.

Dilys Gater, a writer with more than 70 books to her credit, presents a more traditional case, but one rooted more in British spiritualism, selecting cases of past lives remembered by people she has met or past lives she has revealed for them in the course of her 'practise' as a healer and psychic. In her introduction, Gater apologises in advance for any errors or inaccuracies because she has had to remember "hundreds of past life sittings". So much for documentation!

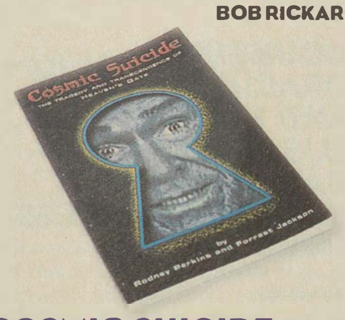
Carol Bowman's book is more investigative, but only in the sense that having discovered that her six-year-old son's fear of fireworks was explained by his remembered death as a black soldier in the American Civil War, she sought out others who believed their children had past life memories. She now lectures as an expert in the field of childhood recollections of past existence, believing that the roots of their neurotic behaviour (and of many ailments like eczema) lie in past trauma and that uncovering this will bring healing. *Children's Past Lives*, says the blurb, wants to bring you comfort, uplift and transformation. If remembering is so healing, I must ask, why can't so many of us remember? Forgetting, in an evolutionary context, seems a stupid waste of opportunity.

Only Jenny Cockell's book offers something different. She impressed us all, some time ago, with her account of how she came to believe she was the reincarnation of Mary Sutton, an Irish woman; as Jenny Cockell, she managed to trace and reunite Sutton's now elderly children. Her latest book presents glimpses of other lives she believes she has lived and discusses various ideas about reincarnation.

I think it is important to note that the majority of these accounts have been uncovered, extracted or enhanced by hypnotic regression, dreaming and controlled imagining techniques – even Jenny Cockell has resorted to these. The authors seem to believe, without any doubt, that memories retrieved in this way are authentic; everything they have to say follows from this premise. Confront that premise with the growing evidence that hypnosis interferes with memories and that our memories are often distorted, and the whole database of remembered lives begins to look very doubtful.

If there is something to reincarnation, it deserves better evidence than this. I want to see serious explorations of subjects such as what happens between lives; how a new body is selected; whether groups of people reincarnate together; the implications of changing sex and relationships; the difficulty of remembering and the mystery of psychosomatic marks. These books provide only personal narratives at best, which, however interesting, offer little to convince a doubter like me.

BOB RICKARD


Cosmic Suicide
The Tragedy and Transcendence of Heaven's Gate
by Rodney Perkins and Forrest Jackson

COSMIC SUICIDE: THE TRAGEDY AND TRANSCENDENCE OF HEAVEN'S GATE

RODNEY PERKINS AND FORREST JACKSON

Pentaradial Press, PO Box 8318, Dallas,
Texas 75205, 1997, pb, $12.00,
128pp, illus, appendices, refs.
ISBN 0-9659512-1-9.

This is the first post-suicide book on the Heaven's Gate group we've seen, and it turns out to be a very pleasant surprise. Far from being a ghoulish cash-in, this is a well researched piece of journalism which wouldn't look too out of place in *Fortean Studies*. Perkins and Jackson examine both the beliefs and dogma of the group and the personalities involved, from Ti and Do to the surprisingly numerous surviving members. A little of the material will be familiar to anyone who read *FT*'s report on the cult, but there's a lot here of value, including much Heaven's Gate literature and Applewhite's autopsy report.

The book's strength is in the way it puts the cult's beliefs in context, both in terms of their millenarian tendencies and of the curious SF themes that informed their cosmology. It gives a history of heresy and millennial beliefs, from Zoroastrianism's apocalypse of molten metal to the People's Temple, Aum and the Branch Davidians. Similarly, it examines assorted religious-themed science fiction, taking in Robert Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land* – which was a source of inspiration for both Applewhite and Charles Manson – and the VALIS experiences of Philip K Dick.

Overall, this is well assembled, commendably neutral and probably as good a book as there is to be written about Heaven's Gate.

JOE McNALLY

I, CROWLEY – ALMOST THE LAST CONFESSION OF THE BEAST

SNOO WILSON

MANDRAKE OF OXFORD,
OXFORD, 1997, PB
£9.99, pp252, ISBN
1869928-490.

To attempt the pseudo-autobiography of so contentious a figure of Aleister Crowley is to invite disaster.

It says much for playwright and broadcaster Snoo Wilson, responsible for Channel 4's excellent *Without Walls* Crowley apologia, that he has avoided the many pitfalls while also producing a work that is as perverse, funny and at times inexplicably moving as its subject.

Told in a convincing simulacrum of the Crowleyan voice, *I, Crowley* is narrated from a vantage point of the magician's final years, before he died of hard-boiled eggs; of heroin; of Hastings. On the surface a deathbed denial of Crowley's alleged complicity in the demise of his disciple Raoul Loveday, gradually a broader portrait is revealed. We see a Magus down to his last spurt of the *elixir vitæ*, clinging with a fierce, grim humour to the Will that had sustained him, even as mortality and doubt begin their final siege. Without concealing Crowley's more unpleasant traits, Wilson allows a glimpse, between the posturing and poisoned love affairs, of something genuine and noble. Recommended.

ALAN MOORE

OUT OF THE BLUE: MODERN-DAY MIRACLES AND EXTRA-ORDINARY COINCIDENCES

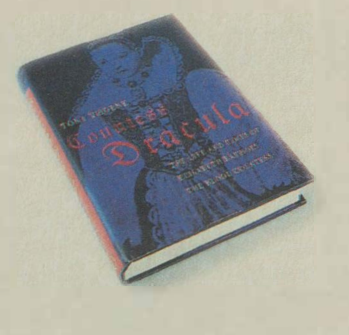
GLENNYCE ECKERSLEY

Rider Books, London, 1997, pb, 6.99, 163pp, ISBN 0 7126 7165-X.

This sets out to chronicle anomalous coincidences and "miracles". However, it's rather let down. First, the writing style rarely rises above twee, which makes it a rather difficult book to plough through. Second, while Eckersley lists dozens of coincidences and miracles, she does so without any sort of framework in which to assess them. A typical line: "Some time ago, a guest on the Oprah Winfrey show produced evidence that if plants were prayed for, they would grow stronger and faster than the control plants." (p40) And that's it.

While all this might seem interesting enough in its own small way, the relentless "well I never!" tone of the book makes it difficult to read more than one or two pages at a time. The "further reading" section at the end of the book is curious; readers wishing to know more about psychology and theology are directed towards a total of three books, one by Jung and two by Swedenborg, which is apparently sufficient to cover both fields. A potentially interesting book, seriously spoiled by its presentation

JOE McNALLY



COUNTESS DRACULA: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ELISABETH BÁTHORY, THE BLOODY COUNTESS

TONY THORNE

Bloomsbury, London, 1997, hb £17.99, pp 288, bib, index, notes, plates, ISBN 0-7475-2900-0.

According to the lurid legend –which appealed to the Brothers Grimm, Sacher-Masoch and the Surrealists – this notorious Hungarian Countess tortured and murdered 650 girls and bathed in their blood as a sort of grand guignol beauty treatment to preserve her aristocratic white skin. She was finally apprehended in 1610 by the Count Palatine Thurzó and held in one of her own castles (at Cachtice in the Carpathian mountains) where she died four years later, aged 54.

However, Erzsébet Báthory's cosmetic bloodbaths are not mentioned in contemporary documents, first appearing over a century later in *A Short Description of Hungary together with its Kings*, composed in Latin in 1729 by the Jesuit priest László Túróczi. It has been pointed out that blood quickly coagulates, making immersion in gore an excessively messy and unpleasant experience; but as Tony Thorne points out: "When a victim undergoes a sudden and violent death, the extreme stress experienced just before dying might trigger an overproduction of fibrinolysin, a powerful anti-coagulant agent." Another anti-clotting agent, readily available in the Countess's cellars, was the acidic deposit which collects around the tops of wooden wine casks.

Although numerous, the extant trial papers are contradictory, and while the Countess was severe and despotic in her dealings with clerics and fellow nobles, it is unclear whether she was directly involved in the mutilation and murder of her servant girls or how many victims there were. Indeed, the fact that the Palatine, Thurzó, had much to gain by the downfall of the rich widow, who was a niece of the King of Poland and a major landholder, has suggested to Dr Irma Szádeczky-Kardoss, a former legal adviser to the Hungarian government, that Elisabeth was framed on trumped-up charges. However, Dr Szádeczky-Kardoss probably goes too far in her ingenious defence of the Countess when she rationalises the tortures described in the trial papers – rolling in stinging nettles, smearing with honey and exposure to wasps and ants, poking vaginas with hot metal rods, jabbing with needles and immersion in "ice-baths" – as healing methods in use at the time.

Tony Thorne has made a diligent study of much original source material, often translated from Hungarian for the first time, and provides an exhaustive (and, frankly, exhausting) account of the feuding and intrigue in 17th-century Hungary and its sister state, Transylvania, torn between Muslims, Protestants and Catholics. Whether or not the Countess was guilty of all the outrages charged against her, it was clearly very astute of the Palatine to avoid a public political trial and keep the affair out of the grasp of his nominal superiors, the Hapsburgs in Vienna, who would have granted the Báthory lands to their own German or Czech-speaking nobles.

The book has one of the most intriguing acknowledgements I have ever encountered, in which the author tells us of the "Curse of Erzsébet". During his research, he suffered attacks of lassitude and confusion, a brush with death in a Caribbean lagoon and the unexplained erasing of computer files as he began writing. In the Austrian National Library, as in the Budapest and British Libraries, "key texts – some of which had not been consulted for years – mysteriously disappeared from their places on the shelves as soon as they were requested, reappearing magically later". Research assistants regularly found themselves risking their lives in freak snow storms, locked at nightfall into the grounds of Bratislava Castle, or trapped by steel shutters in the underground car park of the Esterházy Palace at Eisenstadt.

I recommended this book highly for its thorough scholarship and even-handed judgement. Whichever interpretation you choose to espouse, the Countess Báthory was certainly a very formidable woman.

PAUL SIEVEKING

VIDEO REVIEW

REALLY STRANGE STORIES OF THE TOTALLY UNKNOWN

Mail order only from Between the Lines Productions, Box 302, Crompond, NY 10517, USA, at $20.00 plus $3.50 shipping (for US) or £37 (including shipping) overseas. Please specify format (NTSC for USA or PAL for UK etc). Go to ***www.realstrange.com*** *for additional details.*

Did you ever get the feeling that those pompous and didactic television documentaries on forteana and ufology – such as *Sightings* and *Unsolved Mysteries* and their ilk – had the seeds of their own parody in them? Well, here is the full-blown fruit.

This 60-minute 'show' is an enchantingly wicked satire on *The X-Files* (TXF) and other TV offerings of packaged forteana and consists of interlaced threads – 'My Three Gunmen', 'The X Wives', 'Invasion of the Balloon People', 'Random Access' and 'Unresolved Mysteries' – presented in the style of *Kids in the Hall* out of *Monty Python*.

It was written and directed by Stefan Petrucha – a known satirist and writer of the acclaimed *X-Files* comics published by Topps – and Steve Holtz. They stress that this is a totally unauthorised production, but it is abundantly clear that they are perceptive fans who had great fun putting it together.

There are so many jokey TXF references that Philes will get the most from this, but it is packed with enough verbal and visual gags for everyone to find something that tickles them. My favourite was the mock-Scully's priceless ultra-rational explanation of how telephones work (little angles whispering in your ear). From now on, it will be very difficult to watch the original targets of this satire without suppressing a giggle.

BOB RICKARD

FORTEAN TIMES
THE JOURNAL OF STRANGE PHENOMENA
SAUCERS BUZZ SCOTLAND
MARILYN THE MYSTIC
HITLER'S WITCHES

COMPETITION 35

What American paranormal thriller inspired Chris Carter's *The X-Files?*

The first three correct entries to be caught in the beam of an FBI torch will each win a copy of *Really Strange Stories...* courtesy of Betweeen the Lines Productions. One entry please per person to reach us by 31 December (please state whether you want NTSC or PAL). *To enter see page 60.*

THE OCTOPUS

KENN THOMAS & JIM KEITH

Feral House, Oregon 1996, hb $19.99, pp181, illus, appendix. ISBN 0-922915-39-3.

On 10 August 1991, investigative journalist Danny Casolaro was found dead in a West Virginia hotel bathroom. There were eight deep gashes in one wrist and four in the other. Two bloody towels had been used to wipe blood off the floor and were piled under the sink. Casolaro had been collecting information on what he called the Octopus, a global network of politicians, businessmen and intelligence agents involved in large scale political and criminal operations since World War II.

According to Casolaro, the Octopus was behind an incredible number of events – from the Cuban missile crisis and the Kennedy assassination, through Watergate, the Lockerbie bombing, Iran-Contra and the BCCI collapse. His impressive cast list includes presidents Bush, Reagan and Nixon, conspiracy stalwarts Fred Crisman, E Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis, and special guest stars Robert Maxwell, Steven Seagal and supergun developer Gerald Bull. Of particular interest to Forteans will be the Octopus's many links to the murky world of UFOs and intelligence. Cryptic connections point to its involvement in the Maury Island affair of 1947, originally investigated by Kenneth Arnold, and hint at what's really going on at Area 51 and Dulce, New Mexico – where rumours of underground alien bases might hide the development and testing of illegal weapons.

In joining all the dots, Thomas and Keith occasionally get carried away, straying into the sort of paranoid speculation that prevents conspiracy research from being taken seriously, but the overall picture is sinister and believable. Ultimately, it's the body count that gives their work the ring of at least partial truth. If Casolaro did die for getting too close to the Octopus, he was not the only one. More than 20 people involved in the great beast's many operations appear to have died in suspicious circumstances. It's a figure that's hard to ignore, but if it is all true, how come this book's authors are both still alive?

MARK PILKINGTON

NASA, NAZIS & JFK: THE TORBITT DOCUMENT AND THE JFK ASSASSINATION,

"WILLIAM TORBITT"

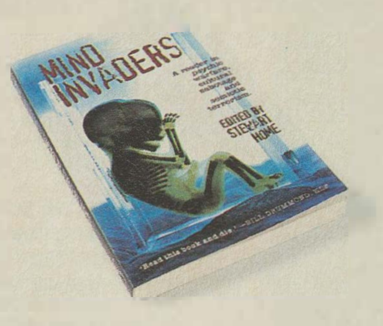
Adventures Unlimited, Kempton, Illinois1996, pb, $16, pp233, index, bib, illus. ISBN 0-932813-39-9.

Originally circulated in samizdat form as "Nomenclature of an Assassination Cabal", the Torbitt document has been tantalising and frustrating Kennedy researchers since 1970. Like ufology's MJ-12 papers they appear to confirm the suspicions of some conspiracists while raising a wary cry of "disinformation" from others. This, the first published edition, contains the complete text – although it excludes some mysteriously blacked out passages – and an introduction and bibliography from Kenn Thomas of *The Steamshovel Press*.

Torbitt alleges that the conspiracy to kill JFK was wide-reaching and primarily financially motivated, involving disgruntled members of, among others: FBI's Division 5 (involved in espionage and counter espionage); the Swiss Permindex corporation (including Canada's Heineken breweries!); Eastern European, Middle-Eastern and Cuban exiles; the American Council of Christian Churches; the Mafia; and the intriguingly named DISC (Defence Industrial Security Command), headed by Nazi rocket scientist Werner von Braun. Other well known and obscure individuals (such as J Edgar Hoover, Lyndon B Johnson, the mysterious Fred Lee Crisman, HL Hunt and David Ferrie) are also mentioned, many of whom fall to their deaths from open windows in true conspiracy style.

While much of the material has since been incorporated into more familiar JFK works, including Oliver Stone's film, this still makes for fascinating and involving reading. It contains much obscure information and a number of threads infiltrate other well mined veins of conspiracy. A connection to Mercury, Nevada (where the moon landings were supposedly hoaxed) and the U2 spy plane, bring Area 51 into the picture, reminding us that the dark waters of conspiracy still run deep to this day.

MARK PILKINGTON



MIND INVADERS

STEWART HOME [ED.]

Serpent's Tail, London, 1997, pb £9.99, pp210, contact addresses. ISBN 1-85242-560-1.

Home is one of the leading figures of the artists known loosely as the Neoists. Taking their lead in part from the Situationists, they strive to baffle and upset for political ends and formulate endless surreal and witty ways to confound authority. As such, they fit rather neatly into the traditions of Fortean thought, in much the same way as guerilla ontologists like Robert Anton Wilson.

This book is an anthology of Neoist and related writing harvested from sources as diverse as the *London Psychogeographical Association Newsletter* and *The Big Issue*. The subjects covered are equally diverse. There are rants from the aforementioned LPA about the mystical significance of various events in and around London, generally involving the power struggle between the Royal Family and other, even more sinister elements, for the control of the mystical omphalos of the British Empire at Mudchute, near Canary Wharf; our departed friends Thee Temple Ov Psychic Youth chime in with an intriguing piece on television magick; there are exhortations to a true "velvet revolution" from Decadent Action.

The joy of the anthology is that it's impossible to tell what is intended to be taken as a joke and what is meant in all seriousness. Traditionally, it's seen as a cardinal sin if a book leaves the reader even more baffled about the subject than when they started; in this case, it really just adds to the fun.

JOE McNALLY

COMPETITION 34

ALL IN THE MIND

With which Hertfordsire football club did Luther Blissett find fame?

The first five correct entries to be wrestled from the authorities will each win a copy of Mind Invaders courtesy of publisher Serpent's Tail. One entry please per person to reach us by 31 December. *To enter see page 60.*

READER INFORMATION

HOW TO CONTACT US

MAIN EDITORIAL
Address all editorial correspondence to
FORTEAN TIMES
Box 2409, London NW5 4NP, UK.

Tel: 0171 565 3128
Fax: 0171 565 3053

EDITOR BOB RICKARD
E-mail: rickard@forteantimes.com
Fax: 0181 552 5466
EDITOR PAUL SIEVEKING
E-mail: sieveking@forteantimes.com
Fax: 0171 485 5002
ASSOCIATE EDITOR JOE McNALLY
E-mail: joem@johnbrown.co.uk
ART DIRECTOR ETIENNE GILFILLAN
E-mail: etienneg@johnbrown.co.uk
FORTEAN STUDIES EDITOR STEVE MOORE
E-mail: steve@fortstudy.win-uk.net
PUBLISHER MIKE DASH
E-mail: miked@johnbrown.co.uk
FT ONLINE
www.forteantimes.com

EXCHANGE PERIODICALS
We offer free listing to relevant mags.
Send to: *FT*, John Brown Publishing,
The Boathouse, Crabtree Lane,
London SW6 6LU, UK.

COMPETITION ENTRIES
One entry per person for each competition. Entries to reach us at the addresses given below by the given cut-off date. The editors' decision is final. Send to:
FT Competitions, John Brown Publishing, The Boathouse, Crabtree Lane, London SW6 6LU, UK.
E-mail: lyndaw@johnbrown.co.uk
Fax: 0171 381 6903.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

RATES ANNUAL SUB of 12 issues (inc p&p) UK £30; EC £37.50 or US$75; USA $59.40; Australia A$75; Rest of world £45 or US$90. Please see house ads in the latest issue for detail of special offers. Subscribers receive *Fortflash*, a quarterly newsletter containing news, book offers and competitions.

UK, EUROPE & REST of WORLD Major credit cards accepted. Cheques or money orders should be in sterling or US dollars, preferably drawn on a London bank and made payable to John Brown Publishing Ltd. Mail to: *Fortean Times*, FREEPOST (SW6096), Bristol BS21 0BR, UK. NB: This address should be used for orders andsubscriptions only. No stamp required if posted in the UK. Telephone payments and queries: 01454 202515.
Fax payments and queries: 01454 620080.
E-mail payments and queries:
karenw@johnbrown.co.uk

NORTH AMERICA US and Canadian subscribers contact: IMS. 3330 Pacific Avenue, Suite 404, Virginia Beach, VA 23451-2983, USA. Tel: 1 888 428 6676.
AUSTRALIA Australian subscribers should deal with our agent: Gordon & Gotch Ltd, Subscription Division, Private Bag 290, Burwood, Victoria 3125. Tel (00 61) 3 9805 1650. Fax (0061) 3 9888 8561.

HOW TO SUBMIT

NEWS CLIPPINGS: All is grist to our mill and we are happy to receive anything you come across. Items must be identified by source and date or they are useless to us. Add your name if you'd like a credit. Photocopies are acceptable. Mail to: *Fortean Times*, PO Box 2409, London NW5 4NP. Fax: 0171 485 5002.
E-mail: sieveking@forteantimes.com or post on the *FT* web site at **www.forteantimes.com** where there is a contributors' guide.
ARTICLES & FORUM SUBMISSIONS: Consult the editors. A provisional Contributors' Guide is available.
ILLUSTRATIONS: Consult the art director.
LETTERS: Letters of comment or about experiences are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

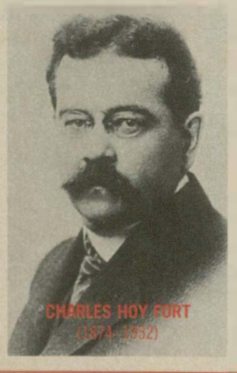
CAVEAT
FT aims to present the widest range of interpretations to stimulate discussion and welcomes helpful criticism. The opinions of contributors are not necessarily those of the editors. *FT* can take no responsibility for submissions, but will take all reasonable care of material in its possession. Requests for return of material should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope or International Reply Coupon.

FORTEAN FORUMS ON INTERNET
There are two discussion forums on the net open to Forteans. We don't own them, but join in regularly. To join the **alt.misc.forteana** newsgroup, 'subscribe' via your net-browser. To join the Forteana mailing list, send an e-mail to **majordomo@primenet.com** with the words 'subscribe forteana' on the first line of an otherwise blank message. Allow two hours to process.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS
AUSTRALIA Paul Cropper (NSW), Arthur Chrenkoff (Qld), Peter Darben (Qld), Tony Healy (ACT), Richard Seary (Qld). **CANADA** Brian Chapman (BC), Max McLaughlin (Ont). **CYBERSPACE** Martin Adamson, Felinda Bullock, Andy Cobley, Jeff Koyen, Dave Walsh. **ENGLAND** Gail-Nina Anderson, Louise Bath, Kevin Beer, Claire Blamey, Peter Christie, Nigel Clark, Sue Corner, Mat Coward, Ade Dimmick, Peter Hope-Evans, George Featherstone, Neil Frary, Alan Gardiner, Mick Goss, Stephen Hammond, Anne Hardwick, Alan Holding, Dionne Jones, Jake Kirkwood, Naomi Lee, Alexis Lykiard, Dave Malin, Nick Maloret, Valerie Martin, Kevin McClure, Alistair Moffat, John Michell, William Neil, Tom Ruffles, Tom Salusbury, Paul Screeton, Ian Sherred, Karl Shuker, Anthony Smith, Roman Suchyj, Paul Thomas, Peter Thompson, Chris Tyler, Nick Warren, Owen Whiteoak, Richard Whittaker, Jason Winter, Bobby Zodiac. **FRANCE** Bernard Heuvelmans, Michel Meurger. **GERMANY** Walter Langbein, Ulrich Magin, Cliff Wren. **GREECE** Steve Tavuchis. **GUERNSEY** Steve Page. **HOLLAND** Robin Pascoe. **HONG KONG** Nina Desborough, Nick Sampson, Chris Williams. **IRELAND** Pat Corcoran, Peter Costello, Doc Shiels. **ISRAEL** Zvi Ron. **IVORY COAST** Ion Alexis Will. **JAPAN** Masaru Mori. **MALTA** Pierre Bonello. **NEW ZEALAND** Peter Hassall. **ROMANIA** Iosif Boczor. **SAUDI ARABIA** Nobuhiro Matsuoka. **SCOTLAND** David Burns, Stuart Herkes, Roger Musson, Jake Williams. **SWEDEN** Sven Rosén. **USA** Larry Arnold (PA), Loren Coleman (ME), James Conlan (CT), Robert Gifford (PA), Mark Hall (MN), Myron Hoyt (ME), John Keel (NYC), Jim Lippard (AZ), Barbara Millspaw (CO), Ray Nelke (MO), Dolores Phelps (TX), Jim Reicken (NY), Ron Rosenblatt (NY), Chuck Shepherd (FL), Dennis Stacy (TX), Joseph Swatek (NB), Joseph Trainor (MA), Jeffrey Vallance (NV), Robert Anton Wilson (CA), Gary Yates (UT). WALES Janet & Colin Bord, Richard Holland. **ZIMBABWE** Cynthia Hind.

CLIPPINGS CREDITS
Martin Adamson, CD Allan, Emma Ambrose, Graeme Anderson, Douglas Baptie, Dan Barnes, Barbara Bates, Kevin Beer, John Billingsley, David Binns, Cecilia Boggis, Behzad Bolour, Pierre Bonello, Janet & Colin Bord, Robin Bray, Johnnie Bryant, David Burns, Cain, Frank G Callow, Trevor Carr, Brian Chapman, Lee Chrimes, Peter Christie, Nigel Clark, Paul Cloutman, Andy Cobley, Jim Conlan, Graham Conway, Kate Copestake, Pat Corcoran, COUD-I, Mat Coward, Alexander Craft, Mark Crossfield, Nina Desborough, Ade Dimmick, John Eastman, Peter Hope-Evans, George Featherston, Simon Fowles, Neil Frary, Alan Gardiner, Myke Gerrish, Robert Gifford, Ian Gollins, Joan Good, Matthew Goulding, Stephen Hammond, Kevin Haney, Anne Hardwick, Tim Healey, Steven Henry, Alan Holding, Myron S Hoyt, Michael Hudson, Paul Jennings, Dionne Jones, Moray Jones, Lisa Kadonaga, Louise Kelly, Mick Kidd, Walter Langbein, Naomi Lee, Alexis Lykiard, Peter Lythgoe, Eleanor Maier, Dave Malin, Nick Maloret, Valerie Martin, Alastair McCall, David McGrory, Max McLaughlin, Nicholas Middleton, Barbara Millspaw, Alistair Moffat, John Morgan, Tony Morris, William Neil, Mark Norman, Shannon Palmer, Robin Pascoe, Dolores Phelps, Mark Pilkington, Jim Riecken, Sven Rosén, Mark Rosney, Tom Ruffles, Ian Sanders, Ron Schaffner, Tony Skraga, Jeffrey Smith, Ian Stewart, Roman Suchyj, David Taylor, Ahrani Thiriloganathan, Peter Thompson, Joe Trainor, Sean Tudor, Chris Tyler, Dave Walsh, Sarah Walsh, Keith Warner, Nicholas Warren, Luke Wenban, Robert Whitehead, Owen Whiteoak, Ion Will, Bryn Williams, Chris Williams, Eleanor Winpenny, Gary Yates, Bobby Zodiac.

COMPETITION RESULTS
***THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS* WINNERS:** Rhydian Ace in Port Talbot, W. Glamorgan; J Cartwright of Armitage, Staffs; Peter Finch from Chelmsford, Essex; James Stamp in Liverpool; P Jones from Eythorne, Kent; Jon Storey in Wateringbury, Kent; John Brocklesby of Hull, Yorkshire; Nigel Clark in Dorking, Surrey; C Smith of Twickenham, Middlesex and Peter J Aspley from Kingston, Ontario, Canada. ***SFX-CD* WINNERS:** Mike Gwilliam from Wrexham; James McLintock in Wisbeach, Cambs; Martin Stubbs from London; Colin Parfitt in Bristol; Peter Finch of Chelmsford, Essex, David Stevenson in Wolverhampton; CJ King, S Knott and EB Twisaday from London and Heather Wall of Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancs. ***BABYLON 5* WINNERS:** Mr S Shaw from Stockport, Cheshire; I Richardson of Liverpool; Jenny Hillier in Hartlepool, Cleveland; Dr T Healey from Barnsley, S. Yorkshire; Ian Hall of Rowley Regis, W. Midlands; Rhydian Ace in Port Talbot, W. Glamorgan; A Proctor of Elswick, Lancashire; Ben Fenlon from Liverpool; David Cocker from Ash, Hants and Mrs Gillian Stirrup in Liverpool. ***ALIEN CONTACT* WINNERS:** MV Beresford from Nottingham; Cliff Haylett in Basingstoke, Hants; BJ Massingham in Norwich, Norfolk; P Morris from Sandiway, Cheshire; C Blamey of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk; Nigel Clark in Dorking, Surrey; D Hernon in London; Neal Corbett of Morpeth, Northumberland; Celia Nash in Orpington, Kent and Bruce Baker from Lingfield, Surrey. ***KEEPER OF GENESIS* WINNERS:** Peter Harris of Dorking, Surrey; John Corbett of Toronto, Ontario, Canada and Clinton Tym from Stockport. **COMPLETE *FT* LIBRARY WINNERS:** Jason Short in Newcastle, Sarah Martin from Essex and Antony Jacobson in New York, USA. ***REMOTE VIEWERS* WINNERS:** Mr P Shaw in Stalybridge, Cheshire; John Hurn from Morecambe, Lancashire and Mrs S Bonnett of Christchurch, Dorset. ***VICTIMS OF MEMORY* WINNERS:** J Pritchatt and D. Browne in London and Andrew Ellams in Runcorn, Cheshire. ***RAMA* WINNERS:** Wayne Sharpe from Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire; Nicola Clarke in Hong Kong; January Musson in Yellowpinch, Australia; MW Geatches in Durham and Matthew Hellings in Keighley, West Yorks. **READER SURVEY WINNERS:** Rex Osborn in London, Justin Bullock from Newport, Isle Of Wight; Rhys Hale in Charminster, Dorset; Iain Latimer of High Wycombe, Bucks and David Howard in Newton Abbot, Devon.

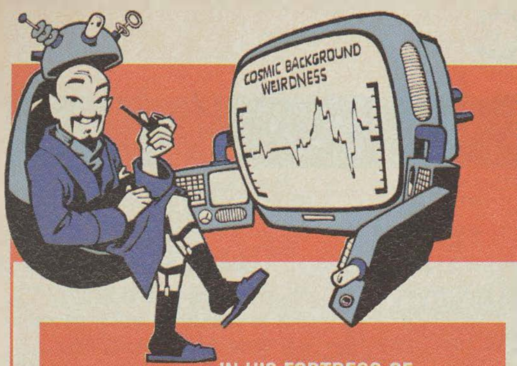

CHARLES HOY FORT
(1874–1932)

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY 'FORTEAN'?

FORTEAN TIMES is a monthly magazine of news, reviews and research on strange phenomena and experiences, curiosities, prodigies and portents. It was founded in 1973 to continue the work of Charles Fort. Throughout his life, Fort was sceptical about scientific explanations, observing how scientists argued according to their own beliefs rather than the rules of evidence and that inconvenient data was ignored, suppressed, discredited or explained away (which is quite different from explaining a thing).

Fort, born of Dutch stock in Albany, New York, spent many years researching scientific literature in the New York Public Library and the British Museum Library. He marshalled his evidence and set forth his philosophy in *The Book of the Damned* (1919), *New Lands* (1923), *Lo!* (1931), and *Wild Talents* (1932).

His dictum "One measures a circle beginning anywhere" expresses his philosophy of Continuity in which everything is in an intermediate state between extremes. He had ideas of the universe-as-organism and the transient nature of all apparent phenomena. He coined the term 'teleportation' and was perhaps the first to speculate that mysterious lights seen in the sky might be craft from outer space. However, he cut at the very roots of credulity: "I conceive of nothing, in religion, science or philosophy, that is more than the proper thing to wear, for a while."



THE HIEROPHANT

HIEROPHANT ILLO BY PHIL BOND

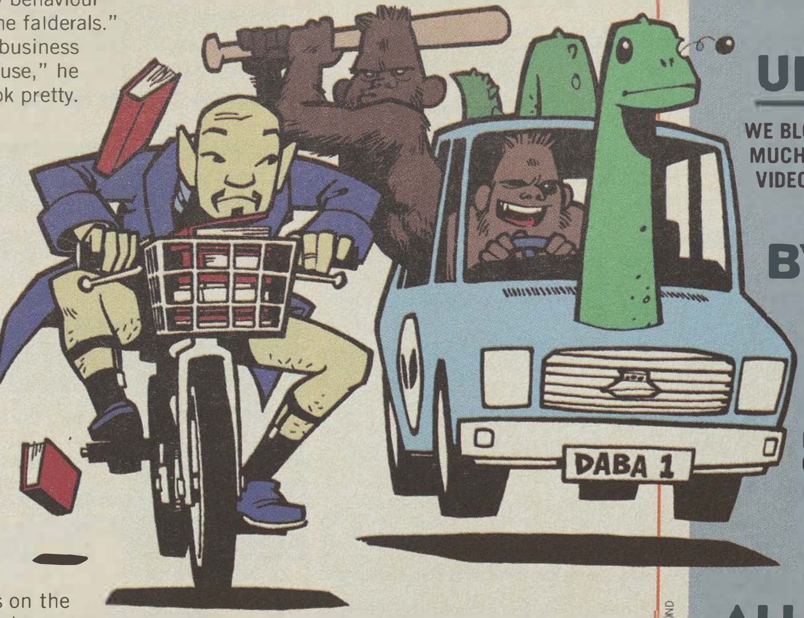
IN HIS FORTRESS OF ARROGANCE, DEEP BELOW THE HIMALAYAS, THE IMMORTAL ASCENDED MASTER KNOWN AS THE HIEROPHANT SEEKS OUT THE MORE DISREPUTABLE PATHS OF FORTEANA

Latest Proof of Survival – Fashion designer Gianni Versace can barely have begun to bloat with decomposition gasses, but it appears he's already doing the rounds of the world's mediums. First to go public has been Helen Christian, who makes some startling revelations about the couturier's post-mortem activities in a recent *Psychic News*. After a brief cheerio to his friends and family, Gianni let Helen into some of the secrets of his life. "Do you believe in love at first sight?" he asked her. "This was singularly important in my private life. As a homosexual, my behaviour was circumspect. I was never one for the falderals." The scoop is Versace's forecast for the business which bears his name. "The fashion house," he predicts, "will go on making women look pretty. Shoulders will return to military style." Remember where you heard it first.

Many Forteans around the world have a special place in their heart for American researcher Erik Beckjord. Beckjord, curator of the San Francisco UFO, Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster and World's Biggest Ball O' String Museum, tends to make a distinct impression on those he enounters, whether in person – *FT* founderBob Rickard once discovered him performing an unspeakable act in his kitchen – or in correspondence. It now appears that Erik is seeking to spread his legendary charm and eloquence beyond the Fortean arena. We were startled to see him turning up in *Time* in early August, advocating dangerous and potentially lethal assults on the latest group to fail to come up to his high standards: cyclists. Here's what *Time* had to say: "Erik Beckjord has formed Drivers Against Bicycle Anarchy. He says drivers will use, if necessary, "the Club, tire irons, pepper spray and baseball bats" as weapons." The Hierophant wonders what brought this on – a nasty run-in with a cyclists' e-mail group, perhaps?

Too good to check: Saucerhead forums on the 'net have been erupting with righteous anger over the recent pronouncements of American televangelist Pat Robertson. Failed politician Robertson has apparently suggested that ufologists should be stoned to death. In a broadcast of his 700 Club TV timed to coincide with the latest NASA Mars mission, Robertson explained that the whole UFO phenomenon is probably satanic in nature: "Can a demon appear as a slanty-eyed, funny-looking creature? Of course he can, or it can. [..] This is man in rebellion against God, who refuses to take God's Law. [..] Here is what he said to the children of Israel about this whole matter: 'If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the Lord your God gives you, a man or a woman [..] who has gone and served other gods and worshipped them, either the Sun or Moon or any of the hosts of heaven [..] then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and stone to death that man or woman with stones.'" While the Hierophant heartily agrees with him where some researchers are concerned, this call for blanket extermination seems a little ill-thought-out.

We're all getting a bit bored with the daisy-like profusion of astonishingly tenuous cash-in books on Fortean topics – "My Uncle's Mate Used To Know Someone Whose Dad's Mechanic Lived Near Roswell" and the like. However, the Hierophant feels that arty publishers Reaktion deserve some sort of Special Endeavour award for a title included in their current catalogue. Timed rather neatly to coincide with the film of the same title, "Men In Black" tells the shocking, true story of... men. Who wear black. Yes, it's a history of fashion...



PHIL BOND

The Hierophant recently found himself browsing a copy of *The Sun* from 14 August, soon after the late Diana, Princess of Wales visited psychic Rita Rogers for advice. The paper had approached several other psychics for their predictions; without fail, every single one foretold "trouble" ahead in Diana's relationship with Dodi, which they will no doubt trumpet as a "prediction" of her death. Sadly, their other predictions went a little wide of the mark. Roz Poland, described as "fortune teller to the stars" claimed that the couple would get married, that Diana would probably convert to Islam and that a child was on the way; Maureen Conway, "the Royals' Clairvoyant" also predicted a child by Dodi and a marriage before the end of the year. The real success was one "Gypsy Rosa Lee", a seaside psychic who told us that Diana would marry a property tycoon by 2001. Next!

IF YOU HAVE A LEAD ON ANY PARANORMAL GOSSIP, SHARE IT WITH THE HIEROPHANT
hierophant@johnbrown.co.uk

COMING IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE OF

forteantimes
the journal of strange phenomena

JOHN SIBBICK

WHERE'S THUNDERBIRD

AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE 20-YEAR SEARCH FOR A MYSTERY PHOTO

MEET THE MELUNGEONS

THE ODD COMMUNITY THAT INCLUDED ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FOREFATHERS

UFO SCAM

WE BLOW THE LID OFF THE MUCH-HYPED MEXICAN UFO VIDEO FOOTAGE

BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON

LIGHTS ON THE MOON BEFORE MAN EVER LANDED... WHAT CAN IT MEAN?

PLUS...

ALL THE WEIRD NEWS FIT TO PRINT

ISSUE 105 ON SALE 8 NOVEMBER 1997

BOOKS

BOOKS ON DRUGS! All you ever wanted to know! Get the best drug information books by mail order (no mailing list kept). Phone now for your free copy of The Psychoactive Booklist. Frog and Falcon Selection 01302 768689.

JAWBONE BOOKS Specialists in second-hand books on UFOs, Paranormal, Occult, Earth Mysteries etc. For the free catalogue send stamp or IRC to 8 St Anthony Road, Sheffield S10 1BG

LITTLE WONDER BOOKS. Lots of weird and wonderful works on UFO's, Forteana, Ghosts and 21 other categories of books. for free catalogue send SAE to 467, Gidlow Lane, Beech Hill, Wigan, Lancs, WN6 8RJ Tel/Fax: 01942 493 761

PHENOMENAL BOOKS Free quarterly catalogues of second-hand and new books on the paranormal and all related subjects. Telephone credit card purchases accepted. Write to 9 King's Arcade, King Street, Lancaster, LA1 1LE or phone/fax 01524 845559 01253 854617 evening/Sundays.

BOOKTRACE INTERNATIONAL Rare, antiquarian and out-of-print books found on any subject without obligation to purchase. Send your wants with SAE to Dept F, PO Box 45, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XP.

WAR IN HEAVEN: Headpress 15. Includes: Jack the Ripper and the Coming Apocalypse, the urban phenomenon that is Animal Farm,girls of Moonbase..."Absolutely essential," say FT. 100pp, £4.95 (includes p&p), payable: Headpress, 40 Rossall Avenue, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 1JD

NEW AND SECONDHAND BOOKS on paranormal, forteana, occult and related subjects. For catalogue send 1st class stamp to: Arcanum Books (FT104), 11 Lockerbie Road, Cramlington, Northumberland,NE23 8DH

YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED

New Authors Welcome

All subjects considered for publication.
A complete and professional service
from manuscript to bookshop shelf.
Worldwide distribution.

Write or send manuscript without obligation to:

Janus Publishing Company, Dept 84
Edinburgh House, 19 Nassau St, London UK W1N 7RE
Fax: +44 (0) 171 636 5756
Http://www.januspublishing.co.uk.

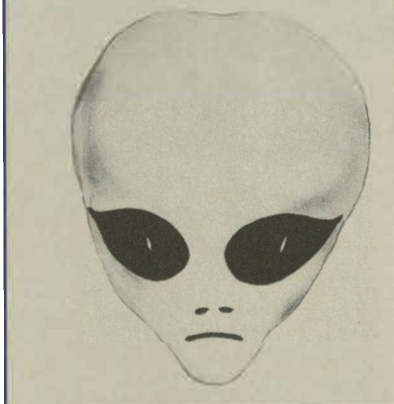
Member of the Publishers Association

FICTION WRITERS

New imprint seeks original work of fiction.
Send synopsis and sample chapter to:

Ruth Helyer, Suite N,
Marionette Books,
1 Hutton Close, South Church,
Durham DL14 6XB

Tel: 01388 776555 Fax. 01388 776766



OF NO DEFENCE SIGNIFICANCE?

A FACTUAL APPRAISAL ON THE
SCOTTISH UFO PHENOMENA
BY LOCAL RESEARCHERS
JOHN M JENKINS

OBTAINABLE FROM
PEN-Y-COE PRESS

7 BRIDGE STREET PENCUIK. PRICE £4.99
PLUS POST & PACKAGE 71p
Tel 01968 673767

If they tell you it does not exist ... try us

tangerine books

cutting edge worldwide book mail order . . .

CHARLES BUKOWSKI barfly

HARRY CREWS scar lover

ICEBERG SLIM pimp

PHILIP K. DICK altered reality

ALEX TROCCHI cain's book

HUBERT SELBY JR. the demon

WILLIAM BURROUGHS interzone

HOBERMAN & ROSENBAUM midnight movies

WEEGEE naked city

USA titles a speciality.

Free sampler on request.

Any/all enquiries welcome.

Tangerine Books Room 1U
140 Battersea Park Road
London SW11 4NB England
T. 0171 720 4590
F. 0171 720 0407
E. tanbooks@dial.pipex.com

free flyers highlighting the best in fiction, film, poetry, biography phenomena, photography ...

AUTHORS

Let Us Publish Your Book.

Most subjects considered including Religion, Biography, Children's Stories, Poems, Fiction, Esoteric, Paranormal and First Books.

AVON BOOKS (FT),
1 Dovedale Studios, 465 Battersea
Park Road, London SW11 4LR.

Accession UK is proud to advertise the book of...

FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE

The book boasts a massive up-to-date text with over 30 sections and many detailed diagrams. The fascinating topics include:

- insider fruit machine tricks
- scams and rip-offs
- get-rich-quick schemes
- electronic surveillance
- beating security systems
- creating a new identity
- the art of lock picking
- revenge and dirty tricks
- strange substances
- police interrogation techniques
- encryption and concealment methods
- telephone and computer hacking
- hypnotism

...plus many more not to be listed here!

Nobody should be without 'The Book of Forbidden Knowledge'

For an express despatch of your copy, please send £10 (cash / cheque / postal order) to:

Accession UK, FREEPOST 11,
PO Box 260, Exeter, EX1 1AZ.

All orders are taken in strictest confidence and are sent under plain cover. Book tokens accepted as full or part payment. Foreign orders welcome. The book is intended for informational and entertainment purposes only

accession
www.ssl.com/bofk

SKEPTICAL of the PARANORMAL?

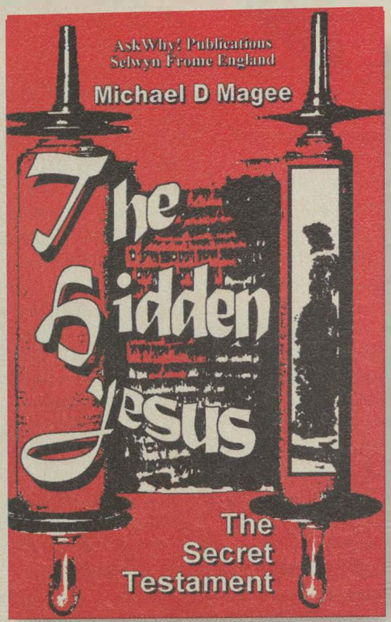
For a catalogue of the world's best skeptical books contact:

prometheus books

10 Crescent View, Loughton, Essex IG10 4PZ
0181 508 2989
prom@hutch.demon.co.uk
www.hutch.demon.co.uk/prom

Also available:
The Skeptical Inquirer

Secret Testament Revealed



In this remarkable book Dr Magee uncovers the story of Jesus hidden by gentile bishops of the Roman empire. The apostle Peter and other travellers from Palestine told stories which did not match the image the bishops wanted of a saintly Son of God. They had to say, "Ho, ho how silly of you Theophilus. This is what really happened" and alter the tale to fit their image.

Still, the truth is only thinly disguised in the gospels for anyone not indoctrinated by religious tradition.

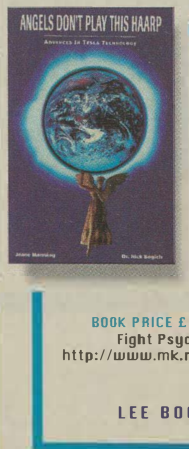
Truly amazing – now the gosepls make historical sense. Explains parables, healing miracles, the cursing of the fig tree, the Gadarene swine, the tribute money and more.

plus FREE *"Mystery of Barabbas"* worth £9.99 introductory offer – UK only.

ISBN 0-9521913-2-6 pbk 374pp £12.99 + £1.50 p&p UK : $25 inc shipping US

ASKWHY! PUBLICATIONS SELWYN 41 THE BUTTS FROME SOMERSET UK BA11 4AB Phone 01373 462679

Website: http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~mdmagee/index.html



THIS IS THE VOICE OF THE MYSTERONS

Angels Don't Play This HAARP - Advances in Tesla Technology. 1.7 giga (billion) watts radiated power ranging the whole of the Northern Hemisphere.

HAARP is the test run for a super-powerful radioactive beaming technology, bouncing off the ionosphere to penetrate and X-Ray everything...living and dead - on the surface and underground.

Chapters entitled:
*The Sorcerer's Apprentice
*Entrain the brain to go insane
*Psychocivilised society & the CIA
*Power and control, the end of freedom

BOOK PRICE £11.00 + £1.50 P&P. CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO LEE BUSINESS.

Fight Psychocivilisation join Anti-Mysterons visit mind control at http://www.mk.net/~mcf. For booklist mind control/conspiracy & postings visit http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/lee.books/

snailmail booklist & postings send SAE to:

LEE BOOKS AND MEDIA, 15 ANNFIELD TERRACE,
ABERDEEN AB10 6TJ, SCOTLAND.

PUBLISHERS

SEEK MANUSCRIPTS

From new or established authors, for evaluation and possible publication. All themes considered including: Fiction, Poetry, Memoirs, Travel, Leisure, Children's etc.

Write or send manuscript:

PEN PRESS
(Dept FT1)
Church House
Portland Avenue
LONDON N16 6HJ

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography,
Religious, Poetry, Children's.
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED.
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINERVA PRESS
2 OLD BROMPTON ROAD, LONDON SW7 3DQ

COUNTER PRODUCTIONS

PO Box 556 London SE5 0RL

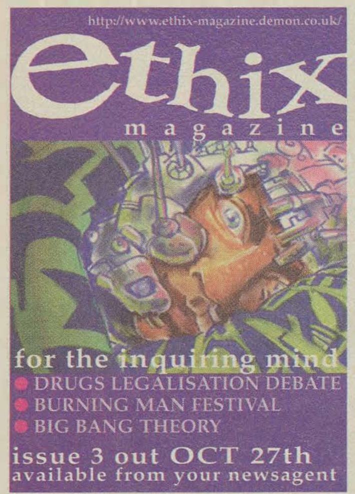
New stock includes Torbitt's Nasa, Nazis & JFK; Secrets of Cold War Technology; Psychopathia Sexualis; & The Association of Autonomous Astronauts' Second Annual Report. Why not rinse your wetware with our bulging core stock of wild reading matter – dedicated to the very best of ufology, the counter-void, conspiracy, psychedelia, cyberculture, weird erotica, hacking, forteana, cult mass-media, and more? Send sae/irc now for our free descriptive mail-order catalogue of wondrous publications.

MAGAZINES

THE ENIGMA tells you of Strange Worlds, Government Conspiracies, Police and FBI, Aliens and cover ups, Scandals, World News, and more. £1.75 UK, £2.25 Abroad: THE ENIGMA, 1 Austin Close, Irchester, Northants NN29 7AX, England.

MIDNIGHT is a magazine that's devoted to horror catering to those who enjoy the dimensions of psychological fear - the world of the nightmare. £2.50 UK. £3.00 Overseas. New Dimensions, 1 Austin Close, Irchester, Northants NN29 7AX.

NEW DIMENSIONS is the magickal magazine for esoteric and related subjects. £1.50 U.K., £2.00 Abroad. Orders and payments to: New Dimensions (f), 1 Austin Close, Irchester, Northants NN29 7AX, Great Britain.


http://www.ethix-magazine.demon.co.uk/
ethix
magazine
for the inquiring mind
DRUGS LEGALISATION DEBATE
BURNING MAN FESTIVAL
BIG BANG THEORY
issue 3 out OCT 27th
available from your newsagent

BLACK ROSE PUBLICATIONS are looking for stories concerning Horror/Ghost/Dark Fantasy/Supernatural for new mag out new year. For more details contact P.O. Box 5461, Dublin 12, IRELAND.

SUPPRESSED, OVERLOOKED AND UNREPORTED information on: Conspiracies, Health, Future Sciences, Free Energy, UFOs, The Unexplained, Big Brother. Discover news you are not supposed to know. Sample £3, One Year £15. Send to; Nexus, 55 Queen's Road, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 1BG.

BACK ISSUES MAGAZINES, comics, newspapers. All types,1880's- present. Send full details of requirements to Tilleys Vintage Magazines (Dept FT104), 29/31 South Street, New Whittington, Chesterfield, S43 2AA. 01246 454270 / Fax 0114 275 2442 / E-mail: ATilley 437@AOL.com Retail- 281 Shoreham Street, Sheffield (opp. Sheffield United FC). Established 1978

PSYCHIC READINGS

INCREDIBLY ACCURATE PSYCHIC READINGS An experienced natural psychic, I will unveil your future/ answer any questions with remarkable prophetic insight. Revealing information/ transformational guidance also given to help you achieve your full potential. Confidentiality assured. Send questions, lock of hair, £15 to: Lee Richards, Myrtle Cottage, Sidbury, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0SD.

TO ADVERTISE CALL CARL ON 0171 565 3152

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MENTION FORTEAN TIMES WHEN REPLYING TO ADVERTISEMENTS

ENCOUNTERS

GHOSTS TRAINEE ASSAP INVESTIGATOR wishes to hear from anyone in Lancashire who has experienced ghostly phenomena. S Leadbetter, 16 Beach Road, Fleetwood, Lancashire FY7 8PT. tel: 01253 770965.

MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

GOTHIC MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT. Eerie,Mysterious, Strange. Private and Corporate. For more information call Talking Pages FREEPHONE 0800 600 900.

EVENTS

MURDER MYSTERY WEEKENDS throughout England. Call 0181 959 6579 for brochure.

BUFORA

Interested in UFOs?

Want to know more?

Then join the British UFO Research Association, the largest UFO research organisation in the UK.

For a free information pack on all the benefits of BUFORA membership send a large sae to:

Bufora (FT)

BM BUFORA,
LONDON WC1N 3XX

Check out BUFORA On-line

http://www.bufora.org.uk

news, cases, research, archives, links, local groups and the store

UFOCALL
0891 12 18 86

the very latest UFO updates

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute all other times

MERCHANDISE & WEIRD GIFTS

MAKE CONTACT WITH THE UK'S NO.1
UFO & X-FILES Supplier

Item	Price
X FILES Video File 4 "COLONY" Ltd Edit. Taking Advanced Orders Now	**£14.99**
UFO Deadly Concealment Official Cover-Up Book	**£9.99**
UFO Diaries-Hidden Truth / First Encounters / Close Encounters Videos	**£10.99 each**
UFO Encyclopedia by J Spencer Book	**£6.99**
UFO I Want to Believe Poster (similar to the one in Fox Mulder's office)	**£3.99**
UFO I Want to Believe USA Edition T-Shirt (L or XL size with X-Files Logo)	**£12.99**
UFO Over Twin Peaks San Francisco 1956 Poster	**£3.99**
Alien Abduction Scene Poster (Captured human on table surrounded by Greys)	**£3.99**
Alien Abduction Insurance Certificate (With self-laminating kit)	**£7.99**
Alien Contact First 50 Years Book by J Randles	**£14.99**
Alien Encounters Book by D Jacobs	**£5.99**
Alien in UFO With Joint "Lost In Space" Text Poster	**£3.99**
Alien Life-Form Autopsy Room Warning Poster	**£3.99**
Alien Liaison Book / Alien Update Book by Timothy Good	**£5.99 each**
Alien Smoking Joint "Take Me To Your Dealer" Poster	**£3.99**
Alien Smoking Joint "Take Me To Your Dealer" T-Shirt (Free size)	**£11.99**
Alien "We Are Not Alone" Roswell Grey Alien Poster	**£3.99**
Area 51 Warning Sign Poster	**£3.99**
Area 51 Logo Keyring (Price includes postage)	**£1.99**
Area 51 Laminated ID Pass	**£3.99**
Area 51/Grey Alien Face Mug	**£5.99**
Beyond Top Secret Book by Timothy Good	**£6.99**
Close Encounters - Special Edition Widescreen (PG) Video	**£12.99**
Communion (15) Video Starring Christopher Walken	**£4.99**
Complete Book of UFOs - 50 years of contact Book	**£6.99**
Fire In The Sky (15) Video	**£10.99**
"I Believe" Grey Alien (brilliant Grey Alien picture) / **"Know We Are Here"** Alien head (v good image) **Posters**	**£3.99 each**
Incident at Roswell Video	**£12.99**
Nevada UFO Craft Area S4 1:48 Scale Model (P&P £2 UK, £4 Europe, £6 rest of the world)	**£21.99**
Open Skies-Closed Mind Book by N Pope	**£5.99**
Paranormal Illustrated encyclopedia Book	**£8.99**
Roswell Alien 1:6 Scale Model	**£8.99**
Roswell (The Movie) Video	**£10.99**
Roswell UFO Crash Update Book	**£11.99**
Unexplained Alien/Strange Lights Poster	**£3.99**
We Are Not Alone Alien Faces/Text T-Shirt (Size L or XL)	**£9.99**
FBI Logo Grey T-Shirt (Size L or XL)	**£9.99**
FBI Logo Baseball Cap (One size fits all)	**£7.99**
FBI Logo White Mug	**£5.99**
FBI Logo 50 sheets A5 note pad with FBI Logo	**£3.99**
FBI Self Laminating ID Badge (For your photo and details)	**£3.99**
Dark Skies *1 Awakening Video	**£12.99**
Dark Skies Tie-In Book *1	**£4.99**
Dark Skies Truth Black T-Shirt (Size XL only)	**£9.99**
X-Files Complete Season 2 Video Set (P&P £4 UK Only)	**£79.99**
X-Files Logo Coffee Mug	**£5.99**
X-Files Logo X Clock (Glowing) (P&P £2 UK, £4 Europe, £6 Rest of the World)	**£14.99**
Gillian Anderson in The Turning (18) Video	**£12.99**
Gillian Anderson in Catsuit Poster / in Underwear on Bed Poster	**£3.99each**

FREE X-FILES Merchandise EVERY WEEK Ring our XF Information & Prize Line
(0891) 617500 *(Calls charged at 50p per min)*

Postage & Packing £1 per item UK, £2 for Europe, £3 Rest of the World
Cheques or Uncrossed Postal Orders payable to MVM. Minimum order £5.00
Payment must be in sterling. Free Catalogue available on request.
(Please quote Dept FT with all orders)

MVM estab 1990

MVM, Albion House, Albion Sq, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 5DA
tel: (01291) 621 700 (Credit card order/catalogue request)

mystic creations

Bizzare Trading Co. opens the door of time on a collection of sculptures inspired by our mystical past. From dragons to druids, celtic artefacts to imposing timepieces. All pieces are hand finished in our studio workshop in Cornwall, and are cast in resin together with Iron, Bronze or Aluminium, enhancing the intricate detail of every individual piece.

Please send SAE or 3 IRC's for free brochure & details of introductory offer to:
Bizzare Trading Co., 46 Lumley Road,
Walssall, West Mids, WS1 2LJ

FREE RAVEN CATALOGUE OF WEIRD AND wonderful magical stuff including: Dreamcatcher Windchime £4.50, Wishing Box £5.95, Ceramic Batty Bat £3.95 from RAVEN, 17 Melton Fields, Brickyard Lane, N. Ferriby, E. Yorks HU14 3HE.

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING PRINTED onto a t-shirt or mouse mat. The weirder the better! A.P.P.S 26 Thurnham Street, Lancaster LA1 1XU 01524 841286 Bulk/Trade enquires also welcome.

FOR ALL YOUR UFO and paranormal related merchandise - plus articles - check out our 5MB website at http://www3.minstral.co.uk/futurepositive or phone/fax: 01273 206190

ALIEN WINDOW STICKERS GLOW IN THE DARK

FOR YOUR HOME - CAR - OFFICE

Large £2.50 each • Small £1.50 each
POSTAGE AND PACKING FREE!!!
Send for details to:
EARTHCARE CO-OP LIMITED,
33 SADDLER STREET, DURHAM DH1 3NU
or Telephone 0191 3845837
Trade Enquiries Welcome

MODELS

MODEL HOT AIR BALLOONS. Make and fly a two-metre-high balloon. Kit contains everything you need except meths. £12.99 to: Montgolfier Balloons, 4 Aylsham Road, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0BH.

THE SAMHAIN GRIMOIRE

Autumn Magical Catalogue of all things
CELTIC, GOTHIC, MYSTIC
and the SCI-FANTASTIC
Eldritch artifacts, curiosities and fantasy sculpture; functional/decorative home and fashion accessories; novelties and games, all inspired by: Celtic, Egyptian & Western Magical Traditions; Legends, Myths & Folklore; Fantasy, Horror & Sci-Fi.
For a free catalogue of the strange and beautiful send a 26p stamped addressed envelope to:

Mancer
Marketing,
Dept FT11
PO Box 22
East Grinstead
RH19 2FE

T-SHIRTS

PERKY PAT T-SHIRTS

AMAZING STORIES (FULL COLOUR) ON ASH GREY

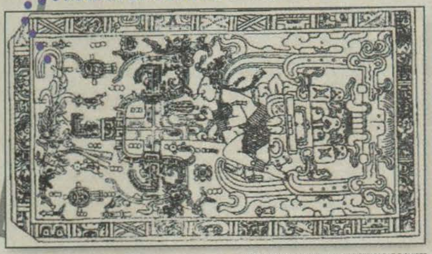
FLYING SAUCER
BLACK ON ASH/SILVER ON BLACK
SILVER ON BLUE
NEW
GLOW IN DARK PINK ON ASH

50'S SAUCER (black&white) on ash grey

WHO PILOTS THE FLYING SAUCERS?

WHO PILOTS THE FLYING SAUCERS? BLUE AND BLACK ON ASH GREY

MAYAN SPACEMAN BLACK ON ASH GREY



ALL DESIGNS COPYRIGHT 1997 PERKY PAT T-SHIRTS

ALL T-SHIRTS £10.99 inc.p&p /overseas £11.99 /US price $24.00
LONG SLEEVE £12.99 inc.p&p /overseas £13.99 /US price $28.00

STATE T-SHIRT DESIGN, COLOUR AND SIZE (M, L, XL)
MAKE CHEQUE / P.O. PAYABLE TO: *PERKY PAT T-SHIRTS*
SEND TO: P.O. BOX 14187 LONDON SW9 9ZU
PLEASE ALLOW 14 DAYS FOR DELIVERY

OLYMPUS DESIGNS

100 FRIARY PARK, BALLABEG, ISLE OF MAN, IM9 4ET

NIRVANA
KORN
MARILYN MANSON
LED ZEPPELIN
FEAR FACTORY
KISS
RESPECT!

TEL: 01624 825396
FAX: 01624 825423

T-SHIRTS

Free full colour mail order catalogue including thousands of officially licensed t-shirts & music merchandise. Write to:

OLYMPUS DESIGNS

Dept. FT 100 Friary Park, Ballabeg, Isle of Man, IM9 4ET
or phone: 01624 825396

SEEDS & HIGHS

DRUG-BOOKS, LEGAL HIGHS, RARE SEEDS. Send A5 S.A.E. for huge catalogue including: psychedelics encylopedia, growers guide, chemistry, mushrooms, peyote, shamanism, testing kits. JFFT, PO Box 2118, Reading, RG1 37J. 0118 926 9869

FREE SEEDS Top quality with every puchase seeds to maturity in 16 weeks. Call for absolutely free catalogue hydroponics electric ladyland. 01386 871 890

Something for the Weekend?

UP YOUR GAS

Still the World's Number One Party Pill

...at the lowest price ever

£5 for 10
£12 for 30
£18 for 60

Neck Some and See...

Don't delay, buy 'em today!

BUZZYWARES State quantity and send cheque or postal order made payable to Buzzywares to P.O. Box 10848 (ft), London SW6 5ZF

MAGIC

MAGIC BY POST Britain's No. 1 Magic and Tricks

HOROSCOPES

NATAL HOROSCOPE 20 pages, only £10. Send time, date, place of birth to: John Wilks, 37 Morley Avenue, London N22

FORTEAN TO FORTEAN

AMERICAN PEN PALS! Have fabulous and genuine friends in America! Computerised and personalised quality matching service. Free details from: Transatlantic Pen Friends, PO Box 2176-FT, San Pedro, California 90731, U.S.A.

SEEKING LIKEMINDED FREAKY SOULS ! Female 28, long dark red hair sincere would like to write/to meet males/females in London/Surrey area. Interests/Rock-metal-dance pubs clubs gigs festivals motorbikes fortean cards evenings in with friends. Dislikes, Control Freaks, Mindgames, Users + Takers timewasters Reply Box #F1024.

L.H.P. OCCULT ORDER / invites acolytes. Arcane Knowledge. London./ 'Nemesis' - 0181-946 9916. Reply Box #F1025

When replying to a box #.
Post to: Box NO (state #).
C/O Carl Rushworth. FT,
THE NEW BOATHOUSE, 136-142
BRAMLEY RO, LONDON W10 6SR.
All replies will be sent
UNOPENED TO ADVERTISER

UFO PENFRIENDS WORLDWIDE
also interested in the paranormal
all ages, male or female
currently compiling a UFO
PENFRIENDS WORLDWIDE DIRECTORY
Details UFO PENFRIENDS WORLDWIDE
PO BOX 364, SWANSEA, WALES,
UNITED KINGDOM SA! 6YU

COMPUTERS

Tantra Computers 2000

Complete Macintosh Systems for designers & musicians.

TEL: BRISTOL 0117 972 4708

CONFERENCE

STARCON97 STAR WARS CONVENTION

Sunday 30th November
Towngate Theatre
Town Centre, Basildon, Essex

Meet Special Guests

Dave Prowse (Darth Vader)	Kenny Baker (R2D2)
Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett)	Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca)
Michael Sheard (Admiral Ozzel)	Caroline Blakiston (Mon Mothma)
Malcolm Dixon (Ewok Chief)	Mike Edmonds (Ewok)

Plus a whole load more!!!

Advance tickets are only £10.00 each.

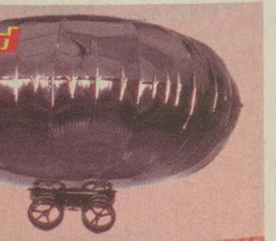
For further information send a SSAE to:

STARCON97 (FT), NELSON HOUSE, 341
LEA BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON E10 7LA
TEL: 0181 523 1074
OR FAX: 0181 527 4860

Web Site: http:/ www.timescape.demon.co.uk

FLYING SAUCERS

Remote Controlled Flying Saucer!



FEATURES

- 2-Stick Handheld Transmitter
- Twin Turbo Fan Receiver Propulsion System
- 36 inch refillable mylar helium envelope
- All This for only $US50.00
- The Best Value In Radio Control Today!

You Will Have Hours of Fun With This Incredible Flying Machine!
Makes an Excellent Christmas Present!

Plantraco LTD., 526 Copland Cres., Saskatoon, SK, Canada, S7H 2Z5
24hr Fax: 306-931-0055 Phone Orderline 24hr: 306-955-1836
Email Orders to: ufoman@link.ca

Need Further Information? Check our Web Page! www.link.ca/saucer

PREDICTIONS

Fortune-Telling..Fortune-Telling..Fortune-Telling..Fortune-Telling
Prediction..Prediction..Prediction..Prediction..Prediction..Prediction
Clairvoyance..Clairvoyance..Clairvoyance..Clairvoyance..Clairvoyance
Psychic..Psychic..Psychic..Psychic..Psychic..Psychic..Psychic..Psychic

THE PSYCHIC TAROT LINE

PROVIDED BY THE WORLD FAMOUS SCOTTISH SERVICE AS SEEN ON NATION-WIDE TV.

0891.882588

OR

0930 505050

PSYCHIC TAROT PSYCHIC TAROT PSYCHIC TAROT PSYCHIC TAROT PSYCHIC

PSYCHIC.TAROT
CLAIRVOYANCE
THE CARING LINE

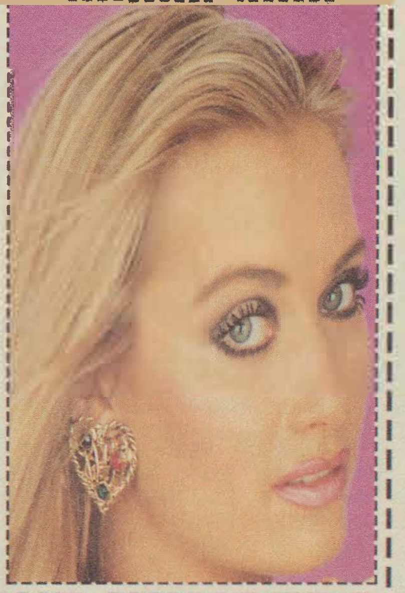
All readers Psychic Society registered

Calls 50p per min. Ferda Ltd PO. Box 40. G51 1NR

INTRODUCTIONS

GIRLS ON LINE

ARE YOU FREE THEN CALL NOW MAKE NEW FRIENDS



SWAP PHONE NUMBERS

0930 971 907

P.O. BOX SENATE 1299, N18 CALLS COST 50P PER MINUTE AT ALL TIMES. INTERACTIVE MESSAGE EXCHANGE

DIAL 'N' DATE

EXCHANGE HOME NUMBERS | 1 TO 1 INSTANT ACCESS | UP TO 60 GIRLS ON LINE

0891 37 37 61

GAY GUYS CALL 0891 35 35 02

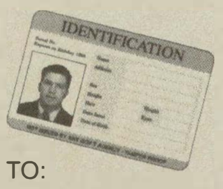
INTERACTIVE MESSAGE EXCHANGE P.O. BOX BCM6002, London WC1N 3XX. CALLS COST 50P PER MINUTE AT ALL TIMES.

BOGUS CREDENTIALS

PHOTO I.D.

Phoney photo I.D. cards are now available and we've got 19 different designs for you. Join the "world famous Actors Guild", or even the Mile High Club, become a bodyguard, there's loads more to choose from.

PROFESSIONAL QUALITY DESIGNS. TAMPERPROOF, LAMINATED FINISH. CREDIT CARD SIZE.



www.belvine.co.uk
FOR A FREE CATALOGUE SEND S.A.E TO:
BELVINE (DEPT FT)
P.O. BOX 180 STANMORE, MIDDX. HA7 2AZ
All items are sold as novelties and misuse may be illegal.

AUDIO/VIDEO

An Unrivalled Catalogue of Psychic Devices That Will Truly Astound You

Lucid Dream Machine, Ganzfeld Device, Subliminal Tape Unit, Mind Relaxer, EVP Detector, Radionic Box, Pyramids, Electronic Candle, Crystal Power Rod, Jupiter Charm, Astral Travel, Self-Hypnosis, Mind Power, Pendulumns, Tapes, etc.

Send £1 or 4 x 1st class stamps (refundable) to:

New Age Electronics, (F)
42 Greenwood, Tweedmouth,
Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2EB
Tel: 01289 304352

SATANISM AND OCCULTISM: Audio/Videos featuringAntonLaVey/ Church of Satan, Boyd Rice, Manson, Anger, R.A. Wilson, Crowley, Huebner, Sanders and more. S.A.E. for details: Lucifer Rising, BM 9046, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

WIND UPS

THE FUNNIEST WAY TO WIND UP A FRIEND!

Call one of the numbers below, put it through to a mate - then wait for the reaction!!!

MR FURY	0336 426 371
MY DAUGHTER'S PREGNANT	0336 426 372
YOU OWE THE TAX INSPECTOR	0336 426 373
IRATE DELIVERY DRIVER	0336 426 374
LOVERS AFFAIR EXPOSE	0336 426 375

Jokelines, PO Box 43 Warminster Wilts BA12 7RJ
Calls cost 39p/min cheap 49p/min other times

OPPORTUNITIES

Phase II Services **Earn £100 per day**

Taking part in medical trials all approved by Ethical Review Boards. Lasting from 1 day to a month or more UK and Worldwide

Phase II Services

For details of how to take part send an S.A.E to: Phase II Services (Dept. BZ), PO Box 427, York YO2 1YL

LINEAGE - BUY 3 GET ONE FREE!

To advertise in the classifieds, tick the appropriate boxes, sign if paying by credit card, and send it together with payment made to John Brown Publishing Ltd to: Carl Rushworth, John Brown Publishing Ltd, The Boathouse, Crabtree Lane, Fulham SW6 6LU.

"FORTEAN TO FORTEAN"

Would you like to send a personal message, meet like-minded people? Then send a self-addressed A4 envelope to the above address. Your message will be allocated a box number and your replies sent directly to the advertiser. Confidence assured.

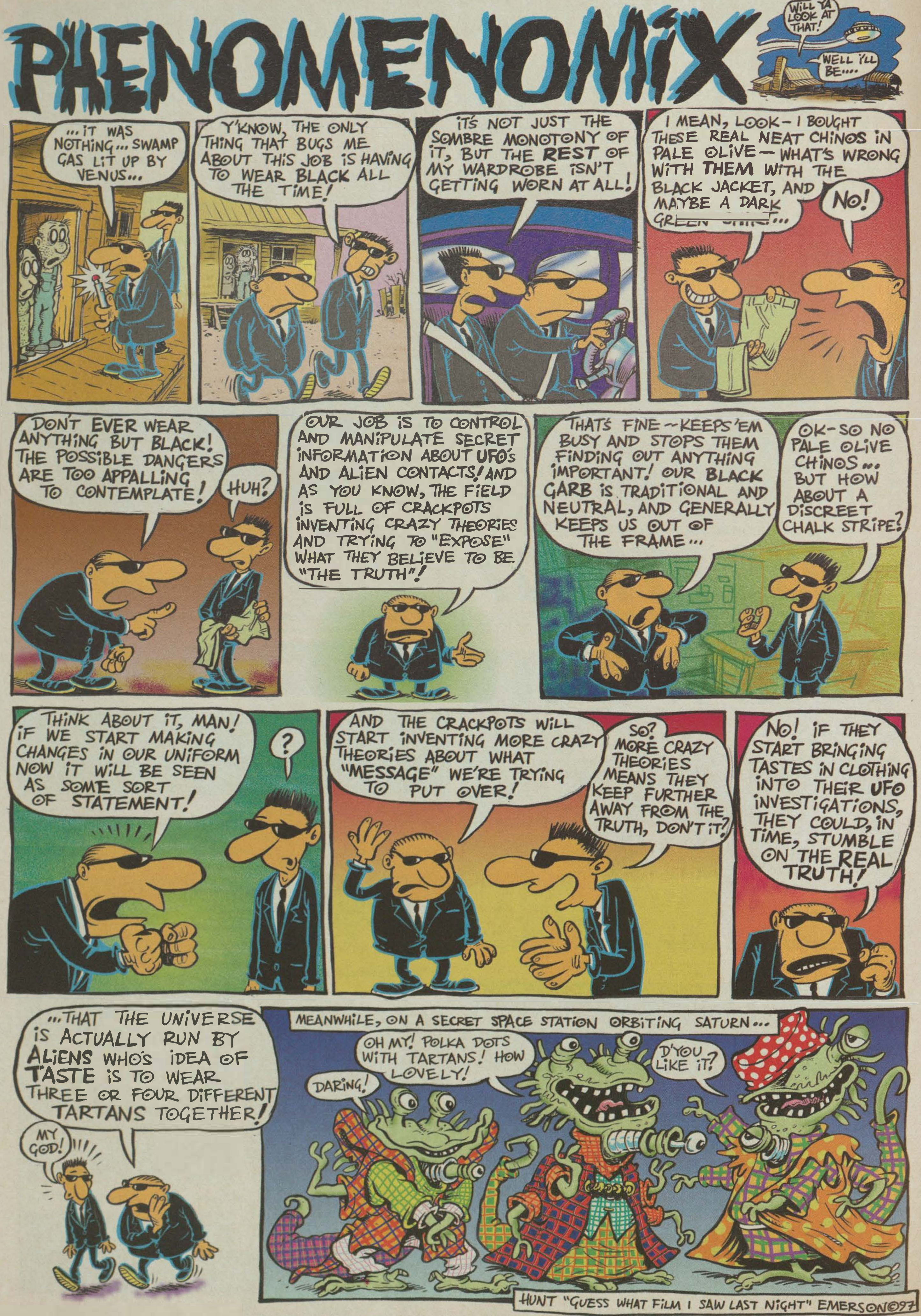
PRICE PER AD

- ☐ 10 words £17.62
- ☐ 20 words £23.50
- ☐ 30 words £29.37
- ☐ 4 adverts for 3

I enclose a cheque/Postal Order for £ ____
I would like to pay by:
☐ visa ☐ access/mastercard ☐ amex Exp. date: /
card no ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐
Signature ____ Date ____
My message reads

Please note your advert will appear in the next available issue. Any problems or credit card orders, please call Carl on: 0171 470 2430

PHENOMENOMIX


WILL YA LOOK AT THAT!
WELL I'LL BE....
...IT WAS NOTHING... SWAMP GAS LIT UP BY VENUS...
Y'KNOW, THE ONLY THING THAT BUGS ME ABOUT THIS JOB IS HAVING TO WEAR BLACK ALL THE TIME!
IT'S NOT JUST THE SOMBRE MONOTONY OF IT, BUT THE REST OF MY WARDROBE ISN'T GETTING WORN AT ALL!
I MEAN, LOOK – I BOUGHT THESE REAL NEAT CHINOS IN PALE OLIVE – WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM WITH THE BLACK JACKET, AND MAYBE A DARK GREEN SHIRT...
NO!
DON'T EVER WEAR ANYTHING BUT BLACK! THE POSSIBLE DANGERS ARE TOO APPALLING TO CONTEMPLATE!
HUH?
OUR JOB IS TO CONTROL AND MANIPULATE SECRET INFORMATION ABOUT UFO'S AND ALIEN CONTACTS! AND AS YOU KNOW, THE FIELD IS FULL OF CRACKPOTS INVENTING CRAZY THEORIES AND TRYING TO "EXPOSE" WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE "THE TRUTH"!
THAT'S FINE ~ KEEPS 'EM BUSY AND STOPS THEM FINDING OUT ANYTHING IMPORTANT! OUR BLACK GARB IS TRADITIONAL AND NEUTRAL, AND GENERALLY KEEPS US OUT OF THE FRAME...
OK – SO NO PALE OLIVE CHINOS... BUT HOW ABOUT A DISCREET CHALK STRIPE?
THINK ABOUT IT, MAN! IF WE START MAKING CHANGES IN OUR UNIFORM NOW IT WILL BE SEEN AS SOME SORT OF STATEMENT!
?
AND THE CRACKPOTS WILL START INVENTING MORE CRAZY THEORIES ABOUT WHAT "MESSAGE" WE'RE TRYING TO PUT OVER!
SO? MORE CRAZY THEORIES MEANS THEY KEEP FURTHER AWAY FROM THE TRUTH, DON'T IT?
NO! IF THEY START BRINGING TASTES IN CLOTHING INTO THEIR UFO INVESTIGATIONS, THEY COULD, IN TIME, STUMBLE ON THE REAL TRUTH!
...THAT THE UNIVERSE IS ACTUALLY RUN BY ALIENS WHO'S IDEA OF TASTE IS TO WEAR THREE OR FOUR DIFFERENT TARTANS TOGETHER!
MY GOD!
MEANWHILE, ON A SECRET SPACE STATION ORBITING SATURN...
DARING!
OH MY! POLKA DOTS WITH TARTANS! HOW LOVELY!
D'YOU LIKE IT?
HUNT "GUESS WHAT FILM I SAW LAST NIGHT" EMERSON ©97

S&P Parker's MOVIE MARKET
Pulp Fiction
GREGORY PECK AUDREY HEPBURN WILLIAM WYLER'S Roman Holiday EDDIE ALBERT
TERI HATCHER
LOUISE
THE AVENGERS THE OFFICIAL 1998
LEONARDO DiCAPRIO 1998 CALENDAR
STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE 1998 CALENDAR

Movie Star Photos !

Over 50,000 different photos to choose from !

All your favourite stars past and present.

Listed below are some of our top sellers... 10"x8" Colour photos: £ 2.75 10"X8" Black & White: £ 1.75 Postage: £ 1.50 per order

STAR 10x8	COL	B/W
GILLIAN ANDERSON	89	29
PAMELA ANDERSON	101	37
JENNIFER ANISTON	23	4
ANTONIO BANDERAS	46	33
BRIGITTE BARDOT	25	30
DREW BARRYMORE	52	28
THE BEATLES	21	17
HUMPHREY BOGART	6	33
PIERCE BROSNAN	2	21
SANDRA BULLOCK	89	38
MARIAH CAREY	30	15
GEORGE CLOONEY	21	5
JENNIFER CONNELLY	44	19
SEAN CONNERY	72	76
KEVIN COSTNER	72	66
COURTNEY COX	21	8
CINDY CRAWFORD	77	36
TOM CRUISE	6	48
ROBERT DE NIRO	44	40
LEONARDO DI CAPRIO	25	18
CAMERON DIAZ	29	11
DAVID DUCHOVNY	46	17
CLINT EASTWOOD	76	55
RALPH FIENNES	14	10
HARRISON FORD	54	60
JODIE FOSTER	86	61
MEL GIBSON	89	52
CARY GRANT	10	28
TERI HATCHER	30	9
SALMA HAYEK	15	3
AUDREY HERBURN	21	34
ELIZABETH HURLEY	31	16
LUCY LAWLESS	11	3
BRANDON LEE	13	9
CHRISTOPHER LEE	18	19
TRACI LORDS	47	25
LOUISE	10	1
MADONNA	65	61
SOPHIE MARCEAU	19	2
EWAN MCGREGOR	5	2
MATHEW MCCONAUGHEY	8	10
STEVE MCQUEEN	20	33
MARILYN MONROE	51	102
DEMI MOORE	54	36
CAROLINE MUNRO	18	15
AL PACINO	30	36
MICHELLE PFEIFFER	77	70
RIVER PHOENIX	47	32
BRAD PITT	91	47
NATALIE PORTMAN	20	5
KEANU REEVES	98	41
JULIA ROBERTS	41	26
MEG RYAN	37	31
WINONA RYDER	70	51
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER	65	51
ALICIA SILVERSTONE	45	16
FRANK SINATRA	20	38
SHARON STONE	100	43
ELIZABETH TAYLOR	24	24
UMA THURMAN	37	17
JOHN TRAVOLTA	25	19
JOHN WAYNE	50	78
RAQUEL WELCH	43	24
BRUCE WILLIS	44	22

*Number of different poses available are stated after star name.

MOVIE AND PERSONALITY POSTERS

Imported American Onesheet Movie Posters(27x 41) . Great New Titles and back Catalogue

Personality Posters- Today's hot favourites and all-time Greats.

AUTOGRAPHS!

All your Hollywood Favourites!
Guaranteed authentic with certificate
Free Fully Illustrated catalogue available

1998 CALENDARS!

FREE CATALOGUES!

Just send us your name and address (or phone 01935 811000) and receive a selection of our monthly 12 page catalogue updates or send £ 3.00 and receive our giant 128 page brochure showing over 25,000 photo illustrations.

Wholesale enquiries welcome!

ORDER FORM

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

____

Post Code ____________________

Star	Col/B&W	Quantity	Price

Giant Catalogue:
Postage: £ 1.50
Total:

Send to- S & P Parkers Movie Market, South Western Business Park, Sherborne, Dorset.DT9 3RH
Tel your order 01935 811001 Fax 01935 811002

You buy
White Label Doubles.
Two great games
for only £14.99.

You play them
all night instead
of taking your
girlfriend out.

She starts seeing
someone else.

It's your eleven
year old brother.

He gets
her pregnant.

It's
octuplets.

She calls in
Max Clifford
and has all
eight babies
live on TV.

Your mum can't
cope and elopes
to Florida with
your best pal.

Leaving
you
to babysit.

But hey! You've got two
great games for only £14.99.

White Label
Doubles. Sorry.

Rebel Assault™
X-Wing™
Collectors CD

Dune II
Cannon
Fodder 2

Day of the
Tentacle.™
Sam & Max™